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BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE
CENTRALE • FIRENZE •

UNITED STATES
SANITARY COMMISSION
BULLETIN.

VOL. II.

NUMBERS 13 to 24.



NEW YORK:

1866.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

Vol. I.

NEW YORK, MAY 1, 1864.

No. 13.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 825 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Sanitary Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. SENO, 68 Wall Street, or No. 825 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

THE WAY IN WHICH FALSE IMPRESSIONS GET AFLOAT.

THE STATE OF OHIO,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, April 2, 1864.

To the Sanitary Associations of Ohio:

I invite your attention to the following communication* from our very intelligent and active Agent at Memphis. In a former letter Mr. Brigham says: "The Sanitary Commission here has always shown a readiness to supply our wants, but the Branch here has received little or no supplies for the last six months." Our Agent wants help at Memphis, and he very clearly designates the most desirable articles. Will our local societies assist our soldiers under this call? If so, they will report their contributions to the Quartermaster-General; I will provide transportation, and send a citizen of the State in charge of them to Memphis, so as to ensure their safe transit and prompt delivery. Prominent citizens are constantly offering to perform this kind of service, without compensation for time or labor. So that, in like manner, and by payment of expenses only, I can send similar contributions to other points whenever desired. I ask the co-operation of our Sanitary Associations.

Very respectfully,

JOHN BROUGH.

To the Editors of the Cincinnati Commercial:
SANITARY COMMISSION.

LOUISVILLE, April 2, 1864.

I observe in your issue of yesterday, a letter from Gov. Brough, on the want of Sanitary supplies at Memphis, and containing an appeal to the "Sanitary Associations of Ohio," to send stores to the Ohio Military Agent at that point.

* The purport of the communication referred to can be gleaned from the Governor's letter.

330 barrels of potatoes, 200 do. onions, 100 do. sour kraut, 150 do. apples, 2,000 shirts, 1,000 pairs of drawers, and a fair proportion of whatever else we have on board. There are — troops here, and 2,100 in General Hospital. I have our store room *thoroughly stuffed*.

Yours, &c.,

H. A. WARRICK.

From this it would seem that there are now sufficient Sanitary stores at Memphis to supply the want at that point. It only remains to show that they are available for the supply of wants of Ohio men.

The reports of our Agents at Memphis, and the letters of Judge Brigham, the State Military Agent there, all indicate that perfect harmony and concert of action have prevailed between them, and that whatever our depot contained, was subject to the draft of the State Agent for the supply of any wants of Ohio men, which he might discover, and that he has been in the habit of drawing from the depot since he has occupied his present position.

Learning, however, that he had reported a want of stores for distribution, I, last month, sent him a special authorization, which should make him feel free to draw from our agency of the abundance of stores which I knew had been sent there. My letter is as follows:

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 14, 1864.

F. W. BRIGHAM, Esq.:

DEAR SIR—Mrs. Rouse has shown me a copy of your letter to the Governor, in regard to your experience with the Sanitary Commission at Memphis. I am gratified to learn that you have been able to derive assistance from our resources in supplying the wants of Ohio men, and I trust the pleasant relations that have subsisted between yourself and our agents, may be uninterrupted; and that they may continue to be, as they have been, mutually profitable. I enclose a letter to Mr. Carpenter, our agent, which will enable you at all times to share any means of relieving suffering, which may be at our command.

Yours, very cordially,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

This letter contained the following enclosure:

MR. D. B. CARPENTER,

MEMPHIS, TENN.

DEAR SIR—This will be handed you by my friend, F. W. Brigham, Esq., Ohio Military Agent, who is doubtless already well known to you. Mr. B. is an acquaintance and friend of many years standing, and I take pleasure in commending him to your kind offices—unless greatly changed, he is in all things worthy of our respect, and I beg of you, so far as may be in your power, to co-operate with him, in the care of Ohio men.

Yours, respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

From this exhibit, it appears—

1st. That the supply of Sanitary stores received and issued at the depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at Memphis, during the six months referred to by the Ohio State Agent, was far from "almost nothing," but in fact was large, and always acceptable to Ohio men.

2nd. That the present supply at that point is *ample*, and that it has been by special authorization, made subject to the draft of the Ohio State Agent.

This, it seems to me, is all that is required to show that the Sanitary Commission has fully met its responsibilities at Memphis, both as regards efficiency of administration, and generosity of spirit.

Some better plea therefore, than that made by Governor Brough, would seem to be necessary to afford our auxiliaries good reason for departing from their present mode of working.

Should any persons or associations choose to send all, or part of their stores, to Judge Brigham, for distribution among Ohio men, I would not dissuade them from it, but let it not be on the plea that the Sanitary Commission has proved inadequate to their wants.

Very respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

HEADQUARTERS, MED. DEPT.,
100TH ILLA. INFANTRY,
MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 20, 1864. }

D. B. CARPENTER, Esq.,

Agent U. S. Sanitary Commission:

SIR—I take great pleasure in complying with your request, and in answering so far as I may be able, the questions you were pleased to submit to me a few days since.

If, in any way, I can contribute to the removal of the erroneous impressions which evil disposed persons at the North—who, I greatly fear are strongly tinctured with treason—have persistently, and maliciously I think, endeavored to make upon the minds of those at home, whose duty to their country, humanity, and God, is to make the burden the soldier bears lighter. And when sickness and wounds come to him, away from home and friends, and all he holds so dear in life, to lend a tear of sympathy, to cool the fevered brow, and soothe the pain, I shall be amply repaid the little labor and less trouble, in giving my testimony in behalf of the noble men, women, and agents of the Sanitary Commission.

In answer to your first question I would say, that during my connection with the army, and at every point or station at which our regiment has been stationed, I have never failed to obtain a full supply of Sanitary stores as the Commission could furnish, when the goods were in store. I have uniformly found the agents of the Commission not only willing, but anxious to furnish them to the soldiers. My hospital has rarely been without such stores as were necessary, and frequently the well men in camp have had issued to them a plentiful supply.

To your second question. That the sick have undoubtedly been greatly benefited. The good done in the prevention of disease can never be computed.

To your third question. That never to any extent, or under any circumstances, have I known the supplies, appropriated in any other way than the one known to the donors.

To your fourth question. Every medical man knows the great importance of fresh vegetables in the prevention of scorbutic diseases, and to the supply furnished by the Commission, are we indebted for the immunity the army has enjoyed from such diseases.

Living as the soldier is upon the salt ration furnished by the Commissary, and the supply of fresh beef frequently limited, by the distance from the base of supply, and difficulties of transportation, without the

aid of the Sanitary Commission, he would lose much of his vigor and efficiency.

Your fifth and sixth questions will be best answered together. The necessity for sanitary aid will continue so long as the war lasts. The circumstances which rendered the Sanitary Commission a necessity in this war, will continue to arise; as fast as their kindness may remove the call for it, some new call will be heard. The ministering angels of the Commission, the kind hearts that truly pulsate in response to their country's wants, must not cease their ministrations, nor withhold their kind words of cheer, or their indispensable donations. Let the brother at home not forget his brother in the army. Sister, your brother is sick in hospital, send to him some little delicacy. The assurance that he is kindly remembered will cheer him, will put new resolution in his weak frame. Feel no fear that it will not reach him. Your particular jar of jelly may not reach your particular brother or friend, but some one's will fill its place.

From the immense storehouse of the great free North, let our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters send their potatoes, onions, pickles, kraut, fruits in their various preparations, through the Sanitary Commission. The agents will properly distribute whatever you send; and although the soldier, in the excitement of army life, may forget to thank you, or the amount of good done cannot be seen or computed, or the amount of disease prevented realized yet an efficient army, strong in the arms, free from disease, and acting in the holiest of all causes, will soon roll back the tide of treason and rebellion, and a great, free and peaceful nation bless the agents of its salvation.

Let the hands of the Sanitary Commission be upheld, the consciousness of good done will be the reward in time, and eternity will complete the recompense.

Very respectfully,

R. A. CONOVER,

Surgeon 106th Illinois Infantry Volunteers.

Surgeon Conover's letter did not form part of the correspondence arising out of Governor Brough's appeal, but its bearing on the subject is plain.

THE SANITARY MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.

Mr. Bowles, the Secretary of the "European Branch" of the Commission, continues to distribute our documents and reports amongst the savans and philanthropists, who have been instrumental in setting on foot the sanitary movement for European armies, of which we have already more than once spoken. He has received very gratifying replies, copies of which he has forwarded us—thanking him for the documents, asking for a continuance of their transmission, and expressing warm interest in the operations of our Commission—from M. de Preval, Sous-intendant Militaire of the French Army; M. Cochin, the distinguished author of the "Results of Emancipation;" Dr. Basting, Surgeon Major of the "Régiment d'Elite of the King of Holland; Dr. Sands, Surgeon Major representing the "Sanitary Corps of the Spanish Army;" and from M. Capello, the Italian Consul at Geneva.

The work of establishing a vast International Sanitary Commission for European armies, with branches in every country, which was planned at the Conference at Geneva, of which we have already given some account, continues to progress favorably, and has received a great impulse, as might have been expected, from the outbreak of the war in Schleswig Holstein. M. Henri Dunant, the author of the little work entitled *Un Souvenir de Solferino*, to whose humane zeal the movement is in the main due, has received the following letter from the Emperor Napoleon:

Sir—The Emperor has considered the requests made by the International Conference, which took place at Geneva, under the presidency of General Dufour, for the study of the question of supplying international relief to the wounded soldiers on the field of battle.

His Majesty highly approves of the object of the Conference, and of the suggestions made for its attainment. He desires to assist in your work, by favoring the formation of a Committee of Relief in Paris, and cheerfully authorizes you to make known his sympathy with your undertaking.

The Emperor has also desired me to write to the Minister of War, directing him to authorize some general officers to join the committee which you are organizing.

Receive, &c.,
Favé,
Aide-de-Camp.

Shortly after the Conference held at

Geneva, in the month of October, M. Moynier, President of the Society of Public Utility, who had presided at the Conference, published an account of the deliberations; and an official circular was then sent to the different European Governments, containing the following inquiries:

1. Is the Government disposed to accord its protection to the Committee of Relief for the wounded, which is being formed within its jurisdiction, as the result of the resolutions of the Geneva Conference, and to aid as much as possible the accomplishment of its designs?

2. Will the Government take part in an international convention, having for its object:

(a.) The conferring neutrality in time of war upon ambulances and military hospitals, the personnel of the sanitary official service, the volunteer nurses, &c., recruited by the Committee of Relief, the inhabitants of the country who shall go to aid the wounded, and the wounded soldiers.

(b.) The adoption of a uniform, or of a distinctive sign for the persons attached to the service, and for a flag which shall be the same for ambulances and hospitals.

If this last proposition should be favorably received, would there be any objection to a badge on the arm, and a white flag with a red cross?

Several Governments have already sent official answers. The Swiss Federal Council authorizes the War Department to carry out the wishes expressed in the circular, on condition that the States nearest Switzerland shall also agree to the proposition. Favorable answers were also received from Wurtemberg, Prussia, France, and Denmark. At Stuttgart an important committee has been formed, under the direction of Dr. Hahn, with an auxiliary branch of ladies, from among the highest nobility of Wurtemberg, and appeals have been published and widely circulated in the country. The King of Prussia has expressed his lively sympathy for the work, and has taken it under his protection. The Danish Minister of War has signified the desire of Denmark to adhere to the propositions of the committee, and associations have been formed in Denmark, in Sweden and in Norway. The ladies have also formed themselves into associations, and have begun by making and sending to the Danish soldiers, woolen socks and other warm garments; and they have also prepared lint, bandages, compresses, and have gathered all kinds of medicines and refreshments for the army.

Mr. Bowles reports, as the pecuniary

result of the labors of the "European Branch" of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, the collection up to March 1st of \$18,843 75, and the branch, it must be remembered, is not over three months old.

In connection with the foregoing, we have received the following letter from Mr. Upton, the United States Consul at Geneva:

U. S. CONSULATE,
GENEVA, April 6th, 1864. }

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—It struck me, on reading the subjoined paragraphs in to day's *Journal de Geneve*, relative to the war in Denmark, that they might interest your Committee; I have therefore copied and translated them:

"The delegate of the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded of the Austro-Prussian Army, Dr. Appia, has been for some time past upon the theatre of the war, where every thing concurs to assure the success of his mission. Received with the greatest kindness by the military authorities, and especially by Marshal Wrangel, he has obtained all desirable facilities for passing freely over the territory occupied by the allied army. Wearing the white badge with a red cross, adopted by the Conference of Geneva, he has had access wherever his mission required his presence, and has procured some relief to the wounded in the name of the Geneva Committee.

"The work of the Conference meets on all sides the greatest sympathy, and its resolutions are generally recognized as very acceptable. A certain number of volunteer nurses (*d'infirmiers*) have already had experience in Schleswig, and their services have been much appreciated; they have, in particular, triumphantly solved the great question of ascertaining whether their intervention might not be troublesome on the field of battle.

"At the latest date, (1st of April.) M. Appia was at the advanced post, at the moment when a brisk cannonade was about to open from both sides."

Very truly yours,

In the bonds of the Union,
CHAR. H. UPTON.

REV. H. W. BELLows,
New York.

WORK OF RELIEF IN THE ARMIES OF EASTERN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.

Dr. Steiner, our Chief Inspector of Relief, reports as follows:

Since my assignment to duty, (December 8, 1863,) as "Chief Inspector for the Commission in the Armies of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, (excepting those connected with the defences of Washington, and those stationed at Baltimore and Annapolis,)" I have been endeavoring to organize my corps of agents, so as to command the whole of this field, and to bring the relief work of the Commission within the reach of all who might be entitled to it. The duties of a chief inspector, as laid down in the

executive organization of the Commission, are "to direct the work of the Commission" in the Military Department to which he has been assigned. Feeling the full responsibility which these duties impose on an officer, no labor has been spared in the organization of the work, which has been effected by the establishment of three distinct districts. *The Middle*, (comprising the Army of the Potomac;) *The Lower*, (comprising as much of the Eighteenth Corps as is stationed in Virginia and Maryland;) and *The Upper*, (comprising the forces in and near Cumberland, and eastward to the Monocacy Junction.) The first of these has always been employed as a species of school of instruction for the relief agents that have been afterwards employed in the other two. The results of nearly three years' relief work are thus made available in quickly training men for work, in accordance with the best plans practicable.

THE MIDDLE DISTRICT.—*Field Relief Corps, Army of the Potomac.*—The reorganization of this army has required a reorganization of the Relief Corps. It consists of the same agents that were reported at the first of last month, with slight changes in their assignments. The direction during the past month has been entirely under the care of Capt. Isaac Harris, whose active business habits has given a special *verve* to every thing done by the corps. Its present constitution is as follows:

J. Warner Johnson,	Superintendent,
Captain Isaac Harris,	Assistant Superintendent,
George E. Holbrook,	Relief Agent, 2d Corps.
E. M. Barton,	" 5th Corps.
Col. G. A. Mchleck,	" 6th Corps.
S. M. Flazier,	" 6th Corps.
C. M. Betts,	" 6th Corps.
H. E. Wilcox,	Relief Agent, Cavalry Corps.
Charles S. Clappitt,	Field Storekeeper.
W. F. Dubong,	" "
W. C. Whittlesey,	Messengers.
H. C. Freeman,	" "

The size of the corps of this army being so large, it will be necessary to have two agents assigned to each, and therefore the present arrangement is not as complete as I hope to have it in a short time.

The arrangements for the spring campaign are now being made by the corps. The wagons are being repaired, and put into condition for active employment. Most of the agents have undergone a training, which will make them most useful in their work of charity; and there is reason to believe that our machinery will be such as the recent indications of confidence in the Commission, from the loyal people of the country, has a right to demand. While the industrious zeal of the women of America is being so enthusiastically exhibited all over the land, it is felt, by those who represent them in the field, that every exertion is required to prevent misappropriation of

stores, and to aid the medical officers in their ministrations to the sick and suffering. Constant visitations of hospitals and associations with those having in charge the various departments of the army, are required, in order to give them intelligent command of the relief work entrusted to them. With the view of showing the nature of their work, I ask attention to the accompanying reports—in some instances, diaries—of the agents, furnished me weekly, as required by the rules of the corps:

1. Report of W. F. Dubose, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 2, 1864.
2. Report of W. F. Dubose, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 6, 1864.
3. Report of W. F. Dubose, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 9, 1864.
4. Report of W. F. Dubose, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, January 17, 1864.
5. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 7, 1864.
6. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 14, 1864.
7. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 21, 1864.
8. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 28, 1864.
9. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, February 29, 1864.
10. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 7, 1864.
11. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 17, 1864.
12. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 28, 1864.
13. Report of Colonel George A. Muhleck, Relief Agent, 1st Corps, March 28, 1864.
14. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 4, 1864.
15. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 9, 1864.
16. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 16, 1864.
17. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 24, 1864.
18. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, January 30, 1864.
19. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 6, 1864.
20. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 13, 1864.
21. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 20, 1864.
22. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, February 27, 1864.
23. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 6, 1864.
24. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 13, 1864.
25. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 19, 1864.
26. Report of George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent, 2d Corps, March 26, 1864.
27. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 4, 1864.
28. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 11, 1864.
29. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 17, 1864.
30. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 25, 1864.
31. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, January 31, 1864.
32. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, February 7, 1864.
33. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, February 15, 1864.
34. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 14, 1864.
35. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 21, 1864.
36. Report of S. M. Blazier, Relief Agent, 3d Corps, March 27, 1864.
37. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 3, 1864.
38. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 9, 1864.

39. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 16, 1864.
40. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 23, 1864.
41. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, January 30, 1864.
42. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 6, 1864.
43. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 14, 1864.
44. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 18, 1864.
45. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, February 27, 1864.
46. Report of Charles C. Harris, Acting Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 5, 1864.
47. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 14, 1864.
48. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 29, 1864.
49. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, 5th Corps, March 24, 1864.
50. Report of E. M. Barton, Relief Agent, on 149th N.Y.V., March 21, 1864.
51. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 17, 1864.
52. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 25, 1864.
53. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, January 31, 1864.
54. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 15, 1864.
55. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 22, 1864.
56. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, February 27, 1864.
57. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 7, 1864.
58. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 14, 1864.
59. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 21, 1864.
60. Report of Charles M. Betts, Relief Agent, 6th Corps, March 28, 1864.
61. Report of Captain Isaac Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, January 14, 1864.
62. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 10, 1864.
63. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 12, 1864.
64. Report of J. W. Johnson, Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, February 28, 1864.
65. Report of Captain Isaac Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Field Relief Corps, March 24 and 25, 1864.

[We have published some of these reports, and now give the list, as an index of the system in vogue to ensure accurate records of labor done.—Eds.]

These reports will give a detailed account of the work of the agents, and include the work done at the engagement at Morton's Ford, as well as that at the Field Lodge, kept at Brandy Station.

The field quarters of the corps at Brandy Station consist of a storehouse and a number of tents, occupied for lodging the agents, the sick and needy who may be detained at the station, and such friends of the soldiers as may from time to time visit the army. The red flag of the Commission, floating from the top of the house, can be seen for miles.

With the view of showing the issues made by the Field Relief Corps, since the first of January, I ask your attention to the accompanying abstract, (No. 66.) The files of the corps exhibit weekly abstracts of issues; and the receipted requisition: are contained in the archives of our work in the Army of the Potomac. These requisitions are mostly signed by medical officers—save such issues as have been made by

the agents to individual cases of need, for the time not under any special control, and which have always been accounted for as individual relief. An effort has been made to secure these receipted requisitions wherever possible, so that we might have in our archives written testimony as to the disposal of our stores, always ready for those who are curious and ready for such investigations.

THE LOWER DISTRICT.—*Major General Butler's command in Virginia and Maryland.*—During the past month, David S. Pope has acted as relief agent in charge of our work in and near Norfolk, and throughout the district. As he has expressed a desire for another field of labor, I detailed R. C. Nevin, on the 25th ult., to relieve him. Mr. Pope, after making Mr. N. acquainted with the nature of our operations in this district, will report for duty in the Army of the Potomac.

Our relief work has been so systematized by the plans of the relief agents lately in charge, that the greatest possible amount of good has been accomplished. A large warehouse, No. 15 Wide Water Street, was assigned to the use of the Sanitary Commission, by command of Brig. Gen. E. A. Wild, on the 3d of March, 1864. This is occupied by the relief agent and the storekeeper, (Sumner Bacon,) and is the depot for sanitary stores.

An abstract of the stores, forwarded from the central storehouse for the use of this portion of my department, accompanying this report, (No. 67,) will show the nature of the supplies which have been required.

The agent has been instructed to adopt the same plan of weekly reports which has obtained in the Potomac Army Relief Corps. These reports, with the receipted requisitions, have always been forwarded, on the first of the week, to the Chief Inspector. You will find the following reports among the accompanying documents:

- 68. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 17, 1864.
- 69. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 26, 1864.
- 70. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, January 31, 1864.
- 71. Report of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, February 7, 1864.
- 72. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, February 14, 1864.
- 73. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 5, 1864.
- 74. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 12, 1864.
- 75. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 13, 1864.
- 76. Report of David S. Pope, Relief Agent, March 20, 1864.

POINT LOOKOUT.—During the stay of Mr. E. B. Fairchild, as examiner in vital statistics, among the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, he acted also as relief agent, distributing stores to the needy in the General Hospital, and to such extreme cases among the sick prisoners as claimed

his attention. His report will show the nature of the work, and how acceptable it must have been to the sick. The transference of Mr. F. to the West, deprives us of his services at Point Lookout. It is desirable that occasional communication be had with this point, by means of special visits, so as to ensure our supplying whatever may be needed. (No. 77.)

At the present time a force is said, by the newspapers, to be collecting at Annapolis, for offensive operations, under Major Gen. Burnside. It may possibly be that this force shall operate in Eastern Virginia. In this case, it will be necessary to organize some plan to meet the relief work that will be unavoidable, when the campaign is once entered upon. I shall take care to see that some proper persons be ready to undertake the work, and that the Sanitary Commission be fitly represented.

Indeed, in any plan of operations that may be adopted for Eastern Virginia, it is evident that hard-fought battles will result. Both sides are nerving themselves for a severe contest. The rest of the winter has enabled them to gather strength, and it would seem now as though the final struggle was near at hand. A wise providence as regards the accumulation of stores at depots, and the perfection of all arrangements for relief work, is required at the hands of the officers of the Commission. We have experience now in the work, and that experience should be made to tell in the way of improved plans and enlarged preparations.

THE UPPER DISTRICT.—*Major General Sigel's command, from Cumberland eastwards.*—The relief work in this district has been very irregularly performed until lately. Reliance was placed on occasional visits from the inspectors of the Commission to the regiments and hospitals of the command, and on applications made directly on our Washington storehouse for stores. In this way, quite a large amount of stores was issued. (No. 78.) The arrangements now entered into will enable us to work this field as well as that embraced in the other two districts. On the 19th ult., Mr. Charles C. Harris went to Harper's Ferry, and, through the kindness of the military authorities, was supplied with proper accommodations for a storehouse. Since that time a full supply of stores has been forwarded to him, and it is intended that this storehouse shall be the depot of supplies for the Upper District of my department. Mr. Harris writes of the courteous reception he has met at the hands of the officers; and how wide a field for active philanthropic labors has been opened before him. I refer you to his report for a fuller statement of the nature of his arrangements in Harper's Ferry. (No. 79.)

I intend that Mr. H. shall remain at the

Ferry, in the capacity of local relief agent and storekeeper. His time can be profitably spent in visiting the regiments in his neighborhood, finding out their wants and supplying them from the storehouse. His past experience in the Army of the Potomac pre-eminently fits him for the duties.

The work of the Commission in this Upper District I have placed in charge of Col. Poter, lately of the Veteran Reserve Corps. Col. Poter has served with distinction in several Missouri regiments, having, as Major, led one of them in the famous engagement at Pea Ridge. In order to fit himself specially for his work, he spent some time with the Relief Corps of the Army of the Potomac. From his experience of army life, knowledge of men and sound common sense, and his acquaintance with the nature of the Commission's work, I have every reason to expect that he will prove to be one of our most valuable officers. My past experience as regards the value of army officers in the service of the Commission, is so favorable, that I feel the importance of securing such officers as have had a good record during their term of service in the army.

Since sending in my report, on the 1st of March, I have made a visit to the Army of the Potomac, and found that our agents have carried on the duties assigned them faithfully, and to the decided benefit of the soldier as well as the credit and good reputation of the Commission. It has been my pleasure to bear testimony to their faithfulness in previous reports. I do not wish to change the record in their favor one iota. They are firm and true, shrink from no labor, and avoid no necessary responsibility. The same testimony I must bear to my faithful clerk, E. R. Cornwall, to Mr. Hong, (the city storekeeper,) and to Mr. L. V. Beebe, whose energy has enabled me in so many cases to get stores off with dispatch, when they were sadly needed at the front. Nor have the officers connected with the transportation department been at all indisposed to assist us, but have aided, as far as in their power, in all our work.

With the hope that the future record of this department may be even more satisfactory than its past, and that the relief work may remove much of the suffering of the war.

We annex, also, the report of Captain Harris, the Assistant Superintendent of Field Relief, (April 15):

On the 27th of February, on my return from Arlington, I reported for duty to Mr. J. W. Johnson, at Brandy Station. The following Tuesday, Mr. Johnson left for Washington. Since which, the superintendence of affairs in the field has devolved upon me.

Early in March, several reconnaissances

were undertaken, by both cavalry and infantry; but as the troops went in the lightest possible marching order, unencumbered by trains of supply wagons, and accompanied by the fewest possible number of ambulances, it was deemed inexpedient to send out any of our wagons with supplies.

The most we could do was to collect from Washington a sufficient supply of stores to meet the emergency.

Happily these goods were not called into requisition—the infantry returning without a man less; and the cavalry, which accompanied them, with only a few cases of wounded, whose wants were easily supplied at the hospital.

The cavalry expedition under Kilpatrick, whatever may have been its losses, and the number of wounded rescued from the enemy, passed into another department, where I trust the wants of the sick and needy were not overlooked by the agents of the Commission stationed there.

Nothing beyond the ordinary routine of supplying the wants of the hospitals has characterized the work in this corps during the past six weeks, unless it is that of supplying the necessities of prisoners confined at the various Provost Marshal's quarters, who on account of their peculiar situation are not allowed to draw clothing or pay. To these men has the Commission, through the assiduity of its agents, been of great benefit. Most of the prisoners were held awaiting trial, or decisions of the Courts Marshal, which had for some reason been withheld. To these men were furnished underclothing and blankets, and frequently that panacea for all ills—tobacco. If the avidity with which they chewed it was an index of their thankfulness, then there is little danger of the Commission being styled a gigantic humbug, by those for whose welfare it claims its origin and existence.

The storehouse at this station, under the excellent management of Mr. C. S. Clappitt and his assistants, with one or two exceptions, and those owing to some delay on the railroad, has been able to supply the necessities of the hospitals, some of which have drawn quite heavily for clothing and articles of diet. The abstracts of issues which have, from week to week, been forwarded to the Central Office, will show you the amount of work done.

At Culpepper, the agency under Col. G. A. Mühleck, has been of great advantage to the sick of the 1st corps, as well as of one division of cavalry, whose illness would not warrant a removal to the Corps Hospital at this Station, and were accordingly treated at their quarters, but who, nevertheless, urgently required those articles of diet, which it was happily the power of the Commission to supply.

The 5th corps, which since the 1st of January has been guarding the O. & A. R.

R., was so widely scattered, that it was deemed advisable to establish a store at Catlett's Station, which was accordingly done by Mr. Charles C. Harris, the Acting Relief Agent attached to the corps. For full particulars regarding his work, I am compelled to refer you to his weekly reports, his situation being such that I was unable to see him as frequently as I did the other agents.

On the 5th ultimo, the regular agent of the corps, Mr. E. M. Barton relieved Mr. H., who reported at Washington for orders. It was soon after decided to discontinue the storehouse at Catlett's, and accordingly Mr. B. removed to Rappahannock Station, where he was able to make better arrangements for himself and horse, and from which point he was in easy communication by rail with the different regiments, and brigade and division generals. The requisitions from the corps are now filled at this storehouse, which plan works very well—the stewards finding no difficulty in obtaining transportation for their stores by the cars.

Early in January, a Lodge for the accommodation of sick and benighted soldiers was established, there being no accommodation of any kind provided by the Government. Here, nearly one thousand men have found shelter and comfortable beds, whereas they would otherwise have been compelled on many nights, to pass the dreary hours in cold, driving storms or freezing weather, without shelter.

Many a father and brother, yes, and mother, too, who had travelled hundreds of miles to visit some sick or dying relative, have had occasion to bless the tents, or rather the agency which placed them there, which provided them little comforts, which money can scarcely command in this inhospitable land.

More than three hundred meals have been furnished to soldiers who were without, and unable to obtain rations. Civilians in quest of sick friends, and wholly unacquainted with, and unprovided for a trip to the "front," have always been cordially received at our table.

On the 4th ultimo I received a communication from Gen. Patrick, Provost Marshal-General of this Army, and Dr. McParlin, Medical Director, recommending for charitable notice the family of Strother Jacobs, a refugee, formerly living near the Rapidan. Mr. Jacobs, who had been for some time in the Confederate service, was so unwell at times as to be confined to his bed during the day, and was little calculated to attend to the business of shipping his few household goods to Washington. They remained with us three weeks, during which they were rendered as comfortable as possible.

On the 27th ultimo, the ladies of the

family were accompanied to Washington by G. E. Holbrook, Agent of the 2d corps—the husband having preceded thither a few days previous. The goods were safely transported under the charge of H. C. Freeman, messenger.

What the plan of operations for the coming season will be, it is impossible to foresee. All we can do is to prepare ourselves for the move, which must soon take place. The wagons, with their supplies, will all be stationed with their respective corps during the next week or ten days. Three of the wagons can go out on an hour's notice, should it be required. The hurry and liability of losing stores, should a move take place, has decided me to break up the storehouse at Culpepper within a few days, to be substituted by the corps wagons, which shall be placed there immediately on the return of Col. Mühleck.

It would be unnecessary for me to particularize any of the employees of the Commission under my charge, as having done his work well. All agents, storekeepers and teamsters, have at all times showed a willingness to carry out the objects of the Commission, which needs no special commendation.

All having had a furlough, and none having any special cause of grievance, it is to be hoped that the work of the Sanitary Commission in this army during the coming campaign will compare well with that in other departments.

On the 24th instant the more serious cases from the hospitals of the 2d and 3d corps, began to arrive at Brandy Station, for shipment to Alexandria and Washington.

The agents of the Sanitary Commission attached to the 1st, 2d, 3d and 6th corps, were present, and did good service in assisting the men from the ambulances to the cars.

We not having suitable apparatus for cooking food, in sufficient quantity, in a short time, the ladies representing Maine and New York, Mrs. Painter and Mrs. Hubbard, made application at the storehouse for beefstock, crackers, tea and sugar, which were furnished them, and, with the assistance of the Sanitary Commission, distributed.

Three long trains, loaded with sick and wounded men, were thereby provided with a substantial meal. The benefit which they derived may be estimated, when it is known that they had breakfasted before daybreak, and had been conveyed over conduray roads to the Station, and would not arrive at Alexandria until nearly dark. In addition to the above, a few bottles of stimulants were furnished to the Surgeons who were to accompany them, on their requisitions, which no doubt proved very beneficial. I have every reason to believe from the

known character of these Surgeons, that the liquor was not misappropriated.

On the following day the sick of the 1st and 6th corps were removed, and they were supplied in the same manner, as far as lay in our power.

SANITARY AFFAIRS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

We have published on another page a correspondence relative to the work performed by the Commission at Memphis, and intended to illustrate the way in which very erroneous impressions are constantly set adrift, often by the admission of a single unguarded expression in a letter or report. Mr. Carpenter, our agent at that point, with the view of shedding still further light on the general subject of the operations of the Commission in the West, addressed a circular to a number of surgeons in the department, asking for their opinion. We have annexed to Dr. Newberry's letter to the Cincinnati *Commercial* the reply received from one of them, Surgeon Conover of the 108th Illinois. Those of the others will reach us in due course. Mr. Carpenter himself writes April 20th:

I have the honor to report affairs in this department in the same quiet and favorable condition as at my last report, and the number of patients in hospitals and sick in camps without material change; there is still an increase of small-pox, otherwise the classes of diseases remain the same.

I received on the 31st of March, of Dr. Warriner, per steamer Dunleith, 323 bbls. potatoes, 200 bbls. onions, 120 bbls. apples, 100 bbls. kraut, 36 boxes shirts, drawers, &c., and 3 boxes fruit, which were a very seasonable supply, and much needed. Owing to the pressing call from the different surgeons in camps for vegetables—as scorbutic tendencies were becoming generally manifest—I issued them immediately in the ratio of 10 bbls. potatoes, 5 bbls. onions, and 2 bbls. kraut per regiment, for general distribution in the regiments. Small as the supply was, its ameliorating effects are very marked.

I have delayed my report somewhat, in order to be able to give some expression as to the value of potatoes pickled in vinegar. I regret to say that it appears to be universally unfavorable, as the men cannot be induced to make sufficient use of them to derive any marked benefit from them; the onion is not subject to the same objection, as they would be eaten with avidity. I received yesterday per steamer St. Cloud, from Cincinnati, 7 bbls. onions, 2 bbls.

dried fruit, 1 bbl. crackers, 49 boxes fruit, cordial, farina, &c.—from Cairo, 120 bbls. potatoes, 16 bbls. onions, 83 bbls. and kegs pickled potatoes, 86 boxes dry goods and fruit, which give us a very good assortment. We shall always need a large supply of "eatables" here, as our hospitals are situated so far from our markets, that they have not the same facilities for making a "fund" with which to supply needed delicacies, as those farther North, where articles can be purchased at far less cost, consequently will need to be supplemented quite extensively by the Commission. We need now especially a supply of rags, bandages, and more sheets; the great increase of small-pox cases, and the reception of wounded at this point, make a large supply indispensable.

We have also received a report from Dr. Warriner, written April 15th, at Louisville, after his return from a general tour of inspection. It will be seen that at that date, although the disaster to General Banks' expedition, of which we have since received the news, was not anticipated, every thing was ready at Vicksburg to follow it up with relief, whenever an emergency arose. Dr. Warriner says:

I have just returned from the expedition to Vicksburg and intermediate military posts in the Mississippi Department, whither I went in charge of a full cargo of sanitary stores. I distributed these according to need, to gunboats and garrisons, at all points occupied by Federal troops, leaving the great bulk of the cargo, of course, at the two points—Memphis and Vicksburg—where we still keep up our agencies. I have already informed you of the supplies left at Memphis. The quantities reserved at Vicksburg were somewhat larger in respect of all articles, except fresh apples. I found these were not likely to keep sufficiently well to justify their transportation beyond Memphis. I left at Vicksburg some 700 barrels of vegetables, 200 barrels kraut and pickled potatoes, 1,500 drawers, 2,500 shirts, 200 comforts, 150 sheets, 50 barrels dried fruit, and a goodly number of boxes of canned fruit, the quantity or condition of which I am not now able to give you with accuracy.

The vegetables will be issued promptly and freely, by Mr. Way, to regiments as well as hospitals. I left Vicksburg on the 5th inst. At that time the news from the Red River expedition was meagre and devoid of special interest, as also of definite indications respecting future movements.

The Red River was rising, and the gunboats were pushing on towards Shreveport.

No decided encounter with the enemy, and no marked incidents, had occurred by

land or water since the capture of Fort de Russey. Land forces were advancing simultaneously with the gunboats, a large sick list was reported, and the day of my arrival at Vicksburg, the painful rumor of the loss of the hospital steamer Woodford, by a snag, was received. The rumor was believed, although not made absolutely certain at the time I left. No supplies had been sent of any kind from Vicksburg up to that time. On that day the "Ike Harris," an ocean going steamer, was seized by the quartermaster, and sent to Fort de Russey to bring away contrabands. It only took the supplies necessary for the subsistence of these on the return voyage. There was understood to be a collection of 1,500 of them at that point. The Harris, from its structure, would be unable to go up higher than the Fort. There seemed to be no intention of sending supplies to the troops, either commissary or medical, without further orders. I considered the propriety of attempting to reach the expedition with the Dunleith, and a goodly portion of her cargo, but decided adversely to it. The boat itself was not adapted to such a trip. Its motive powers were feeble, and its capabilities of resistance and endurance, when assailed by rough weather, are shaky and uncertain.

But, aside from this, the trip itself, with the best of facilities therefor, was not yet advisable, as there was no information yet current or attainable that we would not meet the whole expedition on its return. Mr. Way, and his assistants at Vicksburg, have all needful vigilance, fidelity, and enterprise, and will go forward with stores whenever it becomes desirable and practicable to do so.

I found about 1,000 patients in general hospital at Vicksburg, and twice the number at Memphis. One half, or more, of the former are cases of small-pox. This is now the only disease displaying itself in an epidemic form in the army. It has been terribly prevalent for many months at all points on the river, where there are either troops or inhabitants. Yet there has been a surprisingly small number of deaths from it, taking this epidemic feature into account. It would seem as if the Beneficent Powers were determined that the whole army should have the disease, once for all, and so get through and beyond one great peril to its career, if not existence. One may almost believe that every man in the army has taken his turn, (who was susceptible of the disease,) during the winter. There seemed to be no decline to the epidemic up to the time of my leaving, but the advancing heat of the season will, of course, produce its accustomed results in checking it.

I found the affairs of the Commission, at both Memphis and Vicksburg, in a highly

prosperous condition, and excellently well managed. After the Red River expedition, I imagine the sanitary work on the Mississippi, this side of New Orleans, will materially decline. That is, should that expedition prove a success, and no reverses be met with elsewhere on the river, of such magnitude as to call for the return of troops that have been removed to other departments.

We have received, though too late for insertion in this number, very full reports of the work performed by our agents in relieving the sick and wounded after the great battle. In the meantime, we find the following general statement on the subject in the correspondence of the *New York Herald*, from New Orleans:

Since the recent battles, Dr. Crane, of the Sanitary Commission; the Mayor, Capt. Hoyt, Mr. Tucker, General Banks' private secretary, and other gentlemen, have worked indefatigably day and night in gathering together and transporting stores to the sick and wounded.

Before the news of the engagement arrived, upwards of three hundred boxes and barrels of clothing, wines, and delicacies for the sick were forwarded; and within an hour after intelligence had reached this city of a battle having been fought at Monnt Pleasant, fifty cases of lemons, wine, ice, &c., were shipped on a despatch boat for Alexandria; and since that time scarcely a boat has left this city for the front without taking up large quantities of all necessary hospital supplies, delicacies, &c., for the sick and wounded. Ten or twelve agents of the Commission are now with the army.

On Monday night last, a benefit was given at the Varieties Theatre, in behalf of the Sanitary Commission, and a subscription list opened at the box office. By this means upwards of two thousand dollars have already been subscribed.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The following letters explain themselves:

ANNAPOLES, MD.,
Apr. 11th 1864. }

MR. WM. A. HOVEY,

U. S. Sanitary Commission.

MY DEAR SIR—I have just received your letter, and am exceedingly pained that the statement in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of March 19th, should have arisen from any thing I had written to Philadelphia. So far from detracting from the good work of the Sanitary Commission at this point, and all others where I have labored during the war, I can say that they have done nobly, and promptly met the demands made upon them for stores in behalf of our soldiers.

The article in the *Inquirer*, I suppose, originated from what I may have written about the presence of a member of the Sanitary Commission in the Naval School Hospital. But, I assure you, I had no intention of conveying the impression that your noble organization was not at work here. I am well aware that you have your agents on the flag of truce boat, and that frequent visits are made to this point by members of your Commission. You have always had a storehouse at this hospital, which is always filled with goods; and at Camp Parole you have several ladies, who are representatives of your Commission. I trust that Mr. Knapp and yourself will not think that I intended to give the impression, that the Christian Commission was the only organization at this post. Far from it; a wrong impression was received.

Wherever I have been—on the Peninsula, at Antietam, Gettysburg, &c.—I have always found the Sanitary Commission at work. We are both laboring in the same noble cause; we should rather help each other, than seem to lessen the good influence which we would exert.

I am, very truly and respectfully yours,

J. O. SLOAN.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,
No. 11, BANK STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, April 7th, 1864.

Miss H. D. WILLIAMS,
Agent U. S. San. Com., Camp Parole, Md.

It is with the greatest possible regret that I write, to correct a mistake into which we have been unfortunately led by information from Annapolis, to the effect that there was no agency of the Sanitary Commission in your place.

We have received from Rev. J. O. Sloan, our agent at Annapolis, in Naval School Hospital; also from Rev. G. R. Brent, of Camp Parole, letters which speak in the strongest possible terms of your "constant efforts to relieve the distressed;" and especially of your own labors, and those of Miss Phillips.

Rev. Mr. Sloan says: "There has, undoubtedly, been a wrong impression made at Philadelphia. I have corrected all, however."

I write to exonerate ourselves from the suspicion of having desired to cast even the slightest idea of disparagement upon the labors of the Sanitary Commission in Annapolis. The mistake on our part arose from entirely wrong information.

Will you pardon our mistake, and accept this poor apology, with our kindest regards and good wishes for your success.

W. E. BOARDMAN,
Sec. U. S. C. C.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, TULLAHOMA, TENN.,
January 29, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. READ—It is farthest from

my wish to array our two organizations, having a common good at heart, one against the other; but it seems to me that the public mind needs, in some respects, to be instructed as to the best means of doing good in the army. There are at present two great organizations in the country, having this great end in view, viz., "The U. S. Sanitary Commission," and the "Christian Commission." Having, as you know, had a somewhat extensive experience during the past twenty-eight months, the most of that time on the "front," where aid has been most needed, and having seen and felt the practical workings of both bodies, I trust I may be pardoned, if, in a spirit of kindness, I point out what appears to me "to be an error" in one, contrasted with the more instructed experience of the other. The Sanitary Commission was instituted to supply, in part, and as supplementary to the services of the Medical Corps, the wants of the sick and wounded of the army, which, from the nature of the case, the General Government could not always do. This it has done, and is doing, to an extent never before known in the history of war. All the patriotism and benevolence of the people has been aroused, and they have poured upon the army the full stream of their bounty, trusting to the integrity and wisdom of the U. S. Sanitary Commission to distribute it. And well has it fulfilled the trust. At the outbreak of the rebellion, there were misgivings among the people, on the one hand, and the army, on the other, lest these bounties should be misapplied; but the day of such evil forebodings has gone by. I am free to confess, that, on the part of the Medical Department of the army, there was a fear lest it and the Sanitary Commission should come in collision; but the Commission adopted the only true and safe course, which was "to issue their supplies on the requisition of surgeons, and leave them to use them as the exigencies of the case might demand." The wisdom of this course has been fully established, the Sanitary Commission acknowledging "that those having the immediate charge of the sick being the only proper judges of what was best for them to have," and the Medical Department, in "looking to the Sanitary Commission as a fountain whence the wants of the sick could be supplied." In this way a mutual esteem and confidence has been established, and the two now work together harmoniously. The Christian Commission, if I understand it, was instituted to supply the "religious and moral wants of the army." So far as it has confined itself to this work, the surgeons, whether of regiments or in charge of hospitals, have been ready to extend the hand of welcome, and aid the agents of the society in their "work and labor of love;" but when the agents

come into hospitals, and propose to issue articles of diet to "this man," or "that man," it becomes the duty of the surgeons to be firm, and say, "No one is competent to judge as to what is fit and proper for the sick or convalescent to have, but the medical officer having them in especial charge." It is but a few days since that an agent of the Christian Commission, whom I can but esteem for his honesty of purpose, and his zeal for the welfare of soldiers, came to this hospital, and requested the privilege of giving to various individuals, sick in the hospital, articles of diet which had been confided to him. I was obliged to say to him, "Sir, we do not know one man from another; neither you nor I are competent to judge what is proper in any individual case. That must be left to the judgment of the medical officer in charge of the wards; he knows every individual case. Leave the things you have to distribute with the steward. They will then go into the commissaries' room, and the attending surgeon will order them on the diet table, day by day, as they are needed." He did not "see it in that light," and nothing was left. It should be understood "that no articles of diet for the sick can or should be distributed, any more than an outsider could come into a hospital and prescribe medicines." Let the people at home pour their benefactions into the general store, to be used as wisdom and experience shall dictate, and let them send their agents into the field to do their moral and spiritual work; then there will be no clashing, and the temporal and moral wants of the army will be supplied.

Yours truly,

BENJAMIN WOODWARD,
Surgeon in Charge.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF STORES.

STEVENSON, ALA., Feb. 25, 1864.

DR. A. N. REED:

DEAR SIR—Day before yesterday, when your letter came, I was absent at Lookout in search of relics, and yesterday there was no mail to Nashville, so my letter will not reach you as soon as expected. Late letters from Nashville are not as long in coming as others were two years since.

All the stores sent from Louisville for the Home and for me, also those from Mr. Jones, have come to hand in good condition. I would have been glad to receive a greater amount of stimulants, if you had had them to spare, as every requisition asks more or less. Wines especially are in demand, and at this season of the year the sour native wines are particularly suitable to the relaxed condition of the system.

Your remarks in regard to misapplication of sanitary stores, and the care desirable in their distribution, are very just and necessary. I will send out to all the hospitals,

from which issues are made from this post, circulars similar to the one in pamphlet for the signatures of private soldiers, and will, as far as possible, visit the hospitals myself, or send some person to collect the desired testimony. My own observations lead me to conclude—

1st. That the amount of sanitary stores consumed by sanitary agents, given by them in reciprocation of official courtesy, or directly misapplied, is infinitesimal.

2d. That the favors received by officers are very few, and the amount of stores consumed by officers so small as to be scarcely appreciable.

3d. That there is sometimes misapplication of stores by surgeons and hospital attendants, but by no means to the extent supposed, or to such a degree as to prevent the vast bulk of the stores from reaching the sick.

The first conclusion needs scarcely any explanation. The Sanitary Commission is dependent at every post for its successful operations upon the courtesy of the officers, and they have it in their power to render a thousand-fold for all the favors they receive. I think the course of proceeding of agents in such cases is uniform, but the amount of stores thus expended is too slight for mention. Few officers receive favors directly from the Commission, and never to the neglect of privates. At Kelly's Ferry I never accommodated well men to the neglect of the sick, or officers to the neglect of privates. Of the officers who stopped with me, I think I am safe in saying scarcely a dozen had ever received a meal at the expense of the Sanitary Commission, or who would be so situated as to receive a similar favor again. It shows a great disregard for truth to say that the Commission is a "good thing for the officer," when the aggregate of officers favored is so small.

I could have collected an abundance of the evidence from privates, which you desire, at the Ferry, but my opportunities now are not so good. Must close now as the train is coming. Will write more tomorrow. Cannot send, quite yet, amount and list of seeds.

Yours, very truly,

WM. A. SUTLIFF.

VEGETABLES—VEGETABLES—VEGETABLES.

BRIDGE, GA., April 4, 1864.

MR. D. BARTLETT,

Agent Sanitary Commission.

SIR—The 28 barrels of potatoes, 4 barrels of krant, and 1 barrel of sliced potatoes, (in vinegar,) which you sent to be distributed to the men of the 1st Brigade, 8d Division, 14th A. C., have been received and distributed.

Permit me to express my thanks in behalf of the brigade for this liberal supply of vegetables.

No vegetables except those received from the Sanitary Commission, have been issued for several months.

In consequence of our brigade not being supplied with vegetables, we have had a good many cases of scurvy, and a scorbutic tendency in almost all of our diseases. For about a month before we left Chattanooga, we were supplied very liberally with vegetables by the Sanitary Commission, and the result was, a rapid improvement in almost every case of sickness. There were a good many cases of diarrhea, in which medicine would do no good, but which a few meals of krant would cure—thus showing that it was change of diet rather than medicine, that was needed.

Our brigade is now in a very healthy condition, although there is some tendency to scurvy still manifest. I attribute in a great measure, the present healthy condition of the brigade, to the liberal supply of vegetables from the Sanitary Commission. We are now camped in a healthy location, with plenty of good water, and if we can have vegetables to issue with the rations now supplied by the Government, there is no reason why our brigade should not remain in healthy condition.

I hope, therefore, you will be able to supply us with vegetables, so that we can issue them to the men at least once a week. The old saying, "that an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure," is very applicable to the army, for it certainly is much better to supply the men with proper food, to prevent their getting sick, than it is to supply them with both food and medicine to cure them after becoming sick, and lose their services at the same time.

Yours, truly, JOSIAH D. COLTON,

*Surg. 221 Regt. O. V. I.,
Act. Sur. 1st Brig. 3d Div., 14th A. C.*

ONIONS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

A COUNTRY GIRL TO COUNTRY GIRLS AND BOYS.

Not long since I heard a soldier say that soldiers like onions; that he had, at one time, paid twenty-five cents for an onion. Onions are good for soldiers, and many of them crave them. You and I don't, maybe; we like them only a long way off; but the soldiers do. Down in a corner of our garden, behind the bushes, in what I recognize from surroundings as a long neglected corner—a spot unoccupied save by our dogs, who have considered it their own peculiar play-ground, and from which our boy has taken many a load of bones of their strewing—I see, in vision, the morning sun gleam brightly on rows of tiny green blades; and, as I look, the rows seem to form themselves into great characters, which presently I see are, **FOR THE SOLDIERS.** Henceforth, for

this season, at least, that bone-strewed plot has a nobler destiny. The vision shall be realized. The dogs must seek another playground; this spot is to bear onions for the soldiers. Where now is stiff sod, shall indeed be mellow soil, where onions may take to themselves size and sap and odor. In due time the green tops may flavor soup for the Home Guard; but every bulb lying concealed in the dark mould shall be sacred to such as have seen actual service. Never, since exiled Israelites landed and sighed for the leeks and onions of Egypt, has there been so great a glorification of the odorous, tear-provoking hurb, as there shall be in this garden corner.

This sounds well, say you; but talking brooks no bones, and that frozen sod is not broken yet for those onion beds. You're right. When the barrel, (or shall it only be barrel?) containing them shall have been directed to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, will be a better time for talking of these onions of mine. But just one word to you, girls and boys. Have you a neglected corner in your garden, in your yard, or a place hitherto given to the cultivation of flowers only? That patch is not yours, I beg leave to inform you. The soldier has a mortgage on it. Waste soil is not to be tolerated about our homes, in these times, and the tulip, though a lovely ministrant, must give place to a root which may be put to nobler uses. Dear friends, can't you, won't you work these spots for the soldiers? Think! for any slight weariness we shall so suffer, they have known the hard endurance, the wear of long marches; for every drop of oozing sweat while bending at our toil, the crimson life-current streams from them for country, for home, that we may have them. Let us give freely what we eat to those who are giving life, some of them, for us.

Glancing over a newspaper, my eye falls upon a statement that in the Army of the Cumberland there is much suffering for want of vegetables. In several regiments scurvy has broken out; and an urgent appeal is made to the Sanitary Commission for vegetables. Should each of us country girls and boys furnish a hushel, even, of vegetables—we won't insist upon the onions from all, if some of you prefer potatoes for your peculiar patch—and put them all together, those from each village sending their barrels—how the barrels would roll in? This seems humble work for some of us, does it? No work for country is mean; no work for its defenders is mean. Let us pledge ourselves, girls and boys, that we will do what we can, and that with the enthusiasm with which we pieced together, and flung out to the breeze, our first miniatures of the "Dear Old Flag," in the beginning of these strange times, when it is defended from these whom it has so long sheltered.—*The Independent.*

THE LEGISLATURE OF WISCONSIN AND THE COMMISSION.

Resolutions introduced by Mr. Hubbell were adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the U. S. Sanitary Commission commends itself to the good will and hearty support of this Legislature, and that we hereby testify on behalf of the soldiers and people of Wisconsin, to the comprehensive benevolence of its principles, and the efficiency of its plans as a means of promoting the welfare of the army.

Resolved, That we especially value the nationality of its views, by which all our soldiers, without distinction of place or race, are regarded as U. S. soldiers, and treated as such in all respects.

Resolved, That the Ladies' Aid Societies of Wisconsin, acting as they do, in co-operation with the U. S. Sanitary Commission, are heartily commended to the continued support of our people, as the most suitable tributaries through which the contributions of Wisconsin may find their way to the hospitals and camps of the army.

Resolved, That the fidelity and generosity with which the efforts of the U. S. Sanitary Commission have been sustained by citizens of this State, and especially by its noble and patriotic women, is worthy of the highest commendation.

HOMES AND LODGES.

We have reports from the following Homes and Lodges:

MEMPHIS.

At the Lodge at Memphis, during the four weeks ending April 3d, there have been admitted 1,833 men, from twenty-three States—making an average per day of 531. 1,660 lodgings have been provided, and 1,833 meals; transportation has been procured for 104.

CAIRO.

The report from the Soldier's Home at Cairo, is as follows:

11,303 men have been admitted—making an average of 1,613 per day; 22,835 meals have been given, and 7,764 lodgings.

NASHVILLE.

At the Soldier's Home in Nashville, during the month of March, 5,047 men have been admitted, from twenty-three States; 11,732 meals and 4,236 lodgings have been given; transportation has been procured for 3,742, and \$20,225.22 have been drawn and paid over to 108 men.

LOUISVILLE.

The Relief Agent of the Kentucky Branch of the U. S. C., reports as follows:

From the Home at Louisville, number of rations served during the two first weeks of March, 31,982; number of lodgings during the same time, 7,182. The Agent says: the business of the Home, in the way of providing for, and accommodating soldiers, has increased

steadily, and judging from the demands of the past week, bids fair to continue to increase.

BRASHEAR CITY.

At the Home at Brashear City, during the two first weeks of March, 628 soldiers have been received; 1,641 meals and 415 lodgings, have been given.

DETROIT.

•The report for the month of February, of the Soldier's Rest, at Detroit, shows that—639 soldiers have been admitted; and 3,374 meals and 740 lodgings, have been given.

CAMP NELSON.

Mr. Butler, our Agent at Camp Nelson, reports for the fifteen days ending March 31:

March commenced exceedingly wintry, a heavy and continuous storm of snow came with it, making Camp Nelson, and I presume sundry other places, very miserable and dangerous, without a shelter.

The buildings were by this time so far completed, that when the belt-sacks arrived, which they did on the morning of March 1st, a large detail of energetic soldiers prepared the Home for the reception of 260 men, who would otherwise have had no shelter from the intensely inclement weather.

The Home would not have been opened so early, had not the sudden return of winter forced every door open, and filled most of the beds—for every portion of it was incomplete, and in the hands of the mechanics. The hasty opening was, however, a matter of necessity, for not only were the health and comfort of 260 men in jeopardy, but their very lives.

With the exception of a few days when the Home was being completed, the month has been full of interesting labors to us, and I have reason to know of much profit to the soldiers who have sojourned with us. During this month, April, I trust that the Home will be finished in every particular, and increase in facilities for the comfort and cleanliness of the soldiers.

During the last fifteen days of March, we furnished: lodgings, 1,819; meals, 5,643—comprising a total for the month of March, of lodgings, 3,657; meals, 16,935.

A great change has taken place in this Camp during the last month. The immense business and traffic which a month ago were so lively, and the daily influx of strangers, which once was so great, have departed, leaving Camp Nelson comparatively dull, and shorn of its importance. The long trains of wagons, transporting Government stores to the front, have almost entirely disappeared; also, a large proportion of multifarious employees of the Camp.

The change has been sudden and disastrous to several enterprises, both military and civil—leaving the future character of the Camp unsettled and unknown.

The hospitals are still in full operation. Disease in its most malignant shapes, is unusually rife; cases of small pox, measles and fevers prevail more than ever, and results are uncommonly fatal.

The hospitals through this district, notwithstanding what the Hospital Fund is expected to do, are very needy. Suffering, in a variety of characters, makes frequent calls upon us.

There is any amount of work. We need material.

WORK OF THE STATISTICAL BUREAU.

Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run, (July 21st, 1861,) a number of inspectors were sent out to ascertain the condition of the troops that took part therein, before, during, and after, the engagement; and to investigate the causes which gave rise to the sudden panic among the men, which, it is believed, resulted in their defeat. The facts thus collected were arranged and tabulated in this office, and a report of the results deduced therefrom published (see appendix Doc. 40).

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

About the end of July, 1861, the Commission adopted a system of Camp Inspections, for the duties of which a number of inspectors were appointed.

Among the subjects into which they were directed to inquire, and to report thereon, were the character of camp sites as to elevation, and their liability to malarial influences; drainage and policing of camp; ventilation of tents and quarters; cleanliness of men; quality of food and water; system of cooking generally employed; quality and sufficiency of clothing of men; management of field hospitals; sufficiency of medical supplies; sickness and mortality of troops, &c., &c. In short everything that affected the health and discipline, and consequently the efficiency, of the men was to be noted, the attention of the officers directed thereto; and advice offered, and suggestions made, whenever in the opinion of the inspectors, the ignorance of the officers, medical or otherwise, of sanitary laws, rendered it necessary.

Of these inspections we have received up to date 1,463 (representing 860 organizations).

Number received in 1861.....	555
" " " 1862.....	547
" " " 1863.....	361

These returns are subjected to three processes of tabulation. *First*, on preliminary sheets, for our own facility as office reference, and also to enable us to give such general information in regard to the location and military status of each regiment as may be proper.

Secondly, in a condensed form, where the condition, individually and collectively, of twelve regiments, in regard to the information required by inspectors, (Doc. 19 a.) is seen at a glance; and the information thus presented may be readily made use of as the Commission may see fit in correcting such abuses as come within the observation of the inspectors, and in improving and ameliorating the condition of the soldier generally.

Thirdly, on a State register, where all the

questions, embodied in Doc. 19 a., are arranged under their respective heads, so as to give a monthly summary of replies, obtained thereto by our inspectors, of the regiments of each State, visited by them; these are again presented by groups of States; and finally, a grand aggregate, showing the total number of replies, or items of information, collected from all the organizations in the U. S. service, visited by our inspectors during each month.

There have been recorded on the State register up to date about 700 returns, leaving still about 763 to be entered thereon.

The results to be obtained from the facts recorded in this register, will be of inestimable value in determining and reducing to a scientific basis, those general laws by which future military operations shall be governed, in regard to the economy of human life. Indeed this value has already been recognized, from the favor with which certain partial results, derived from facts collected in the inspection of the first 200 regiments, and embodied in Doc. 40, were received by statisticians and scientific men, not only in the United States, but also in France and England.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

In the summer of 1862, we copied from the records of the Surgeon General's Office, the consolidated reports of hospitals (including those of a few general hospitals) of the different departments, as far as they had been received. They all possess more or less value, according to the accuracy and consistency of each monthly report, one with another, in determining the average duration of treatment; ratio of deaths to 100 cases treated; ratio of sickness to 1,000 men strength, and numbers furloughed, discharged and deserted. The reports of hospitals in the West are a great deal more incomplete than those in the East. The value of this data will be of use in giving approximating estimates of the number of men treated, in all the hospitals of the United States, regimental and general or otherwise, since the commencement of the war.

GAIN AND LOSS, SICKNESS AND MORTALITY, FIRST FIFTEEN MONTHS OF THE WAR.

Another source for the collection of data is the Adjutant General's Office.

The facts obtained there are of the first value, whether we consider them with regard to their vastness, or to the gradually increasing regularity of their returns, by which previous error is readily detected, and a greater accuracy secured.

In the beginning of April, 1862, we set to work to determine the sickness and mortality of

the whole army, from the beginning of the war, to the time the last returns had been received in the Adjutant General's Office. The rolls from which these results were to be elicited, are the returns of gain and loss of each regiment, usually made out by the Adjutant, and supposed to be forwarded monthly to the Office of the Adjutant General. At first they were irregular and incomplete; but as time elapsed, and their length of service increased, the officers gradually awakened to a sense of their duties, and the returns came in more and more regularly; until now irregularity in their transmission is perhaps rather the exception than the rule.

Commencing with June, 1861, we exhausted all the rolls received in the office from that time up to, and including August, 1862—a period of fifteen months—and comprises over 2,400 reports from the different organizations in the service.

The collection of this vast quantity of facts; their arrangement by States, and by groups of States; and their classification by months and seasons; together with a large number of other combinations, which are always suggested to the inquiring mind of the statistician, required the constant services of one clerk for over six months. It has been estimated that the deductions thus obtained, involved over one million figures.

The results elicited from the above, in relation to the first nine months of the war, (June, 1861, to March, 1862,) have been published, with illustrative diagrams [Doc. 46].

In this pamphlet are given the annual mortality rates of the volunteer army by seasons and by rank, and by location whence recruited; the constant sickness rates of the army East and West; and also comparisons between the sickness and mortality of the troops in the East and those in the West. Elaborate comparisons are likewise instituted between the sickness and mortality of the present volunteer army, and our army at different other periods of our history—particularly that engaged in the Mexican campaign; and also with the British army at various periods—and more especially during the Peninsular and Crimean campaigns.

It has also elaborate calculations, based on these returns, showing the rate of recruiting necessary to supply *given losses* from mortality, discharges, desertions, and other causes; and also showing the number of men required to keep up a *given constant* force of *effective* men, when a *given per centage* of men are constantly sick.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SOLDIERS.

In January, 1863, we commenced the social and physiological examinations of soldiers; and since then have been constantly receiving, and con-

tinuing to receive, these returns from our agents, Messrs. Buckley and Fairchild. The former has confined himself exclusively to the examination and measurement of Union soldiers, and the latter has been similarly employed on rebel soldiers at Point Lookout. The number of individual examination returns received up to date is, of Union soldiers, 4,078, and of rebels, 1,970—making in all 6,048 returns.

These we tabulate as they come in, distinguishing those in usual good health from those suffering from disease, exhaustion or otherwise.

Being fully impressed with the great value of this work in establishing comparisons between the physical, social, and moral condition of northern soldiers, with those of the south; and between both and those of European armies, we have succeeded in placing the aggregate facts in as forward a state as possible, so that results may be deduced therefrom with comparatively little delay and trouble.

THE INFLUENCE OF MILITARY LIFE ON MEN OF DIFFERENT AGES.

Another subject of investigation is to ascertain the average age of the soldiers of the volunteer service, by States; to find out what ages predominate in the national army; and through these means, by connecting them with other facts, to determine the relative efficiency of men in active military life, at different ages.

With regard to the average age of the volunteers, we are now engaged in collecting all the available data in the Adjutant General's Office on this point, and have completed that of the soldiers of the following thirteen States, namely:

Maine,	New Jersey,
New Hampshire,	Pennsylvania,
Vermont,	Maryland,
Rhode Island,	Illinois,
Massachusetts,	Iowa,
Connecticut,	and
New York,	California.

We have thus far investigated the records of about 900 organizations or bodies of troops, involving the examination of 10,000 master rolls—representing an aggregate force of nearly 800,000 men.

There yet remain to be examined, in order that each State may be represented, the rolls of sixteen States and Territories, beside the different State and United States' organizations of colored troops.

In regard to the question, as to the relative efficiency of men in active service at different ages, the difficulty of obtaining data for its discussion, makes it not an easy matter to conclu-

sively determine. The only available information, likely to throw light on this subject, was derived from records of deaths and burials, now being collected and recorded, under the official management of Brigadier-General Rucker. As these records are received, entries are made on a large register, of the name of the deceased soldier, his age, regiment, and cause of death; together with such other information as will render it not only a means of future identification, but also a document of considerable historic value.

Having obtained permission to make such use of the facts contained therein as we saw fit, we exhausted all the information relating to the age of the soldier, and the cause of death. Somewhat over 2,000 deaths were recorded.

The results seemed to indicate that the mortality was *less* between the ages of eighteen and twenty, than between twenty and twenty-five, but *greater* than among those of twenty-five and thirty-five.

Whether the facts obtained from the records of 2,000 men are sufficient to establish a question of such scientific importance, it is difficult to say; we understand, however, that they have been considerably increased since then. We know, also, that Mr. Elliot, previous to his departure for Europe, was about to make arrangements for the collection of data from other sources, and in sufficient quantity, to enable us to arrive at conclusive results on this point.

PENSIONS.

We have likewise collected from time to time, such other statistics of the volunteers, as were afforded by the rolls in the Adjutant-General's Office, such as, nativities, occupations, heights, complexion, color of hair, eyes, &c. The number of men of whom we have obtained such descriptions is 69,000—of whom 18,000 are drafted men and substitutes; and the number of rolls examined, to get at this information, was at least 5,000. In these descriptions are comprised soldiers of the following States, namely:

Maine,	New Jersey,
New Hampshire,	Pennsylvania,
Vermont,	Maryland,
Rhode Island,	Illinois,
Massachusetts,	Iowa,
Connecticut,	Indiana, and
New York,	Minnesota.

As the rolls from which these facts are derived, are constantly being received, the work of collecting them may be prolonged indefinitely.

EFFECTS OF LONG MARCHES AND IMPROPER FOOD ON THE HEALTH OF THE MEN.

Soon after the battles of Gettysburg, another

subject of investigation was entered upon. This was to ascertain the effect of long marches and improper or insufficient food, on the health of the men who took part in the engagement.

For the purpose of collecting the necessary facts to aid in its discussion, forms (J, J1, & J2) were prepared, and given to Inspectors with such instructions, in relation to their collection, as should render the information to be obtained of greater value.

We have received up to date 141 of these returns, (Dr. Swalm 50, Dr. Winlow 69, and Dr. Fairchild 25,) which we have arranged, classified and tabulated; and which, await *scientific analysis*, to elicit just and correct conclusions in relation to the subjects under discussion.

IN THE HOSPITAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A RAINY DAY IN CAMP."

S. S.—, a Massachusetts Sergeant, worn out with heavy marches, wounds and camp disease, died in — General Hospital, in November, 1863, in "perfect peace." Some who witnessed daily his wonderful sweet patience and content, through great languor and weariness, fancied sometimes they "could already see the brilliant particles of a halo in the air about his head."

I lay me down to sleep,
With little thought or care,
Whether my waking find
Me here—or THERE!

A bowing, burdened head,
That only asks to rest,
Unquestioning, upon
A loving Breast.

My good right-hand forgets
Its cunning now—
To march the weary march
I know not how.

I am not eager, bold,
Nor strong—all that is past:
I am ready now to do
At last—at last!

My half-day's work is done,
And this is all my part;
I give a patient God
My patient heart,

And grasp his banner still,
Though all its blue be dim;
Those stripes, no less than stars,
Lead after Him.

The following was found in a pair of sanitary socks recently:

The fortunate owner of these socks is *secretly* informed, that they are the one *hundredth* and *ninety-first* pair knit for our "Brave Boys" by Mrs. Abner Bartlett, of Medford, Mass., now aged 85 years. January, 1864.

HOSPITALS IN TENNESSEE.

(CONTINUED.)

Since my connection with the United States Sanitary Commission as hospital visitor, Mr. Ingraham and myself have visited the general hospitals in Nashville as often as once a week. In these visits I have endeavored to make myself fully acquainted with the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers in the various hospitals, and to furnish supplies to relieve their wants, to the full extent of their claims upon the aid of the Commission.

No case has presented itself, within my knowledge, that has been passed by without proper attention and relief. The affairs of these hospitals appear to be administered with care and ability by the surgeons in charge. Neatness, cleanliness, and order characterize all their departments. I have discovered no want of attention to the wants of the patients. They have wholesome food and suitable clothing. As a general thing, the wards are well ventilated, and kept at a proper temperature.

Strangers have often visited the hospitals with me, and in every instance have expressed gratification at the excellent manner in which they are provided, and the healthful condition in which they are kept. Not long ago, a father came here to visit his son, who was a wounded soldier in one of the hospitals. He came with the intention of taking his son home with him. After spending two days at the hospital, he said to me that he should leave his son there, for he was satisfied, from what he had seen, that his son was better cared for there than he could be at home.

That you may have a correct general idea of the work done by the Commission in these hospitals, I will enumerate the various articles that have been distributed in them during the months of January and February. The amount distributed in the month of March will be ascertained and included in the next report. I will also state the number of patients in each hospital for the same time, and from what States of the Union they have come.

This will be instructive, and serve to illustrate the necessity of such an organization as the United States Sanitary Commission.

During the months of January and February, there were distributed to Hospital No. 1, 321 shirts, 185 pairs of drawers, 107 towels, 52 pairs of socks, 11 pairs of slippers, 95 cans of fruit, 8 cans of condensed beef, 1,760 pounds of dried fruit, 248 pounds of groceries, 54 bottles of wine and spirits, 30 cans of condensed milk, 39 gallons of apple butter, 162 gallons of pickles, 360 gallons of krent, 304 bushels of potatoes, 52 bushels of onions, 63 gallons of

ale, 15 bushels of green apples, 265 pounds of crackers, 41 pounds of codfish, 124 bandages, 48 pillow cases, and other small articles. This distribution was made, for the most part, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Ingraham and myself, and the soldiers in the hospital received the full benefit of it. I have not the slightest idea or suspicion that a single article was misapplied or wasted.

In a conversation I had last week with Dr. Horner, the surgeon in charge, I said publicly, in the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen, that the United States Sanitary Commission had rendered the greatest possible service to Hospital No. 1; that it saved it last winter from going down; that he found it greatly in debt, and was only able to sustain it by the aid received from the Commission; and that it was now out of debt, and able to take care of itself. To show how highly he appreciated the service rendered, he directed a number of his assistants to procure a letter of thanks from the inmates of the hospital to the Commission, for the supplies received at their hands. That letter has been forwarded to you.

The number of sick and wounded soldiers in this hospital, who participated in the supplies above mentioned in the months of January and February, and the States from which they were mustered into the Federal service, will be found in the following table, furnished by the hospital clerk:

U. S. A., GENERAL HOSPITAL No. 1,
NASHVILLE, TENN., March 26, 1864. }

Number of patients from the different States in hospital, January 1st, 1864, also the number received in January and February:

	January 1, 1864.	Received in Jan.	Received in Feb.	Total Treated.
Regular Army.....	16	6	16	32
Ohio.....	237	105	161	603
Indiana.....	126	70	66	262
Illinois.....	89	69	169	267
Tennessee.....	15	6	12	33
Michigan.....	67	17	41	125
Kentucky.....	40	25	50	115
Wisconsin.....	14	8	14	46
Minnesota.....	1	2	6	9
Kansas.....	2	2	6	10
Missouri.....	6	3	15	24
Pennsylvania.....	26	6	12	44
New York.....	15	8	14	37
Massachusetts.....	5	3	6	14
New Jersey.....	1	1	1	3
Iowa.....	15	1	10	26
Miscellaneous.....	8	1	11	20
Total.....	726	312	532	1,570

From this exhibit it will be readily perceived, that no mere *State* agency would be adequate to supply the wants of the soldiers in this hospital; neither would it be adequate for any army hospital, for a similar state of facts exists in all. Here are fifteen hundred and seventy soldiers, from fifteen different States of the Union, brought together, by the casualties of war, in the same hospital.

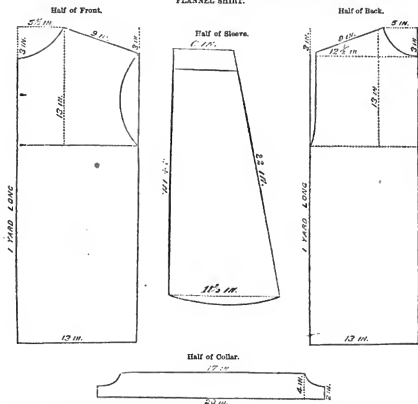
They are all United States soldiers, and were fighting under the same flag when wounded or disabled. Surely a Commission must be *national* in its character, and "not hemmed in by State lines," to meet the wants of such a case. In the struggle that exists, the political, social, and individual interests of the whole people are at stake; and it should make no difference with patriotic citizens from what State the heroes come who fight their battles for them; and, when suffering, there should be no partiality in the relief that is extended to them.

The United States Sanitary Commission was founded upon this broad and comprehensive principle of patriotism and benevolence; and the good it has done, and is doing, over the whole extent of the theatre of war, fully vindicate the wisdom of its organization.—*Report of Hospital Visitor.*

PATTERNS FOR HOSPITAL CLOTHING.

The following patterns have been adopted as the best and most economical by the New England Branch of the Sanitary Commission, after an experience of more than two years, during which over 45,500 garments have been sent.

FLANNEL SHIRT.



Required for each Shirt—3 skeins linen thread, 5 black bone buttons, 7 stays, tape or silesia.

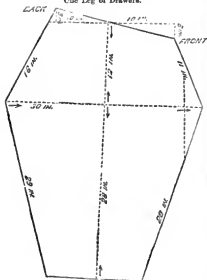
Directions for Making.—The dimensions given above, are for flannel twenty-six inches wide.

The opening in the front should be fourteen inches long, and should be faced on the left side with silesia, two and one-half inches wide. There should be two button-holes on this side. A flap of silesia, two and one-half inches wide, when doubled, should be put on the right side for the buttons, and stitched under the left side at the bottom of the opening. The collar should

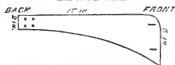
cover the flannel entirely on the left side, but the silesia flap should project beyond it on the right side. There should be one button and button-hole in it. The shoulder seams should be strengthened by a crosswise binding of silesia, and stays should be put on at the flaps and at the opening in the sleeve. The sleeve should be faced at the wrist with silesia, three inches wide, and fastened with one button. The opening at the wrist should be one finger long. The flaps should be two fingers long.

FLANNEL DRAWERS.

One Leg of Drawers.



Half of Waistband.



Required for each pair of Drawers.

1 tape stay, one inch long, (for opening in back.)

3 knots linen thread.

3 black bone buttons.

Narrow tape, for back of waistband (18 inches long.)

Directions for Making.—If the flannel to be used is less than thirty inches wide, put the point at the back close to the edge of the flannel and piece the fronts, as shown by the dotted lines above.

The opening below the waistband in the back should be four inches long. The opening in front should be seven inches long and faced with flannel or silesia, two inches wide. Two buttons should be put on the waistband in front, and one on the opening below. There should be four eyelet holes on each side of the waistband behind. Waistbands should be lined with silesia. Drawers to be closed to the ankle, and finished with hem.

To cut a piece of flannel economically, drawers and shirts should be cut together.

Put the bottom of one leg against the bottom of the other, and two long triangular pieces of flannel will be left on each side, out of which, with the other small pieces, cut the collars and wrist-facings for shirt, and waistband for drawers. In cutting the second pair of drawers, be careful that the slanting line of the top meets

the slanting line left by the first pair, and go on as before.

Begin to cut the shirts at the other end of the piece of flannel, tearing off two yards for the body of each shirt. One sleeve and a half can be cut out of the width of the flannel, and in cutting a number of sleeves, one may be made to fadge into the other.

Pieces of flannel are usually from 45 to 52 or 53 yards long and 26 inches wide.

Cut by the above patterns, it will take about 5½ yards for a shirt and pair of drawers. The diagrams allow for seams.

SURGEON'S TESTIMONIALS.

HEADQUARTERS 3D DIV. 15TH A. C.,
HUNTSVILLE, Ala., March 6, 1864. }

MY DEAR SIR—I have received lately two numbers of the *Sanitary Reporter*, the last of the 15th of February, for which, supposing that you sent them, accept my thanks. I have often wished that I could receive all the publications of the Sanitary Commission, and especially such as the above. The last number was especially interesting, as containing your report of your visit here. As it may be interesting to you, I will give you some figures in respect to the command since. I will enclose the total of my weekly reports since your visit. Between the 20th and last of February, I inspected the camps of eight organizations—seven regiments and two batteries—all that were accessible. I will give you the results as to sickness. The strength present was 2,556; number of sick (unfit for duty, rather,) at date of inspection, 87; average number for the preceding week, 95 3-7; giving on this average a ratio per thousand of mean strength 37.33—differing but little from the proportion when you were here, (31½ per cent.)

We have as yet had scarcely any symptoms of scurvy. One cause for this, perhaps, is the frequent foraging expeditions, in which the men get articles of food not otherwise easily procur'd. The details for duty are large, and prevent sickness from idleness. In my inspections I found that 7,053 rations of fresh beef, and 7,078 rations of soft bread, or flour, had been issued during the preceding week. You will perceive by the copy enclosed, that in the *regular way* we get very few vegetables. The potatoes issued have at times been damaged. The agents of the Sanitary Commission have issued quite largely. To them we are compelled to look for our supplies. I am glad to see my idea confirmed by your opinion of the anti-scurbutic properties of corn meal. It was at my suggestion that it was added to the articles to be reported weekly as issued. I would like to see the meal of parched corn issued. It, I presume, would keep as well as flour. As fresh potatoes cannot be procured in any thing like an adequate supply, I wish

very much that your suggestions as to "potatoes, pickled in vinegar, or put up in molasses, as for sea voyages, to be eaten raw," could be carried out. Our Post Hospital is now in much better condition than when you saw it. Mrs. Bickerlyke and Mrs. Porter reached here in the latter part of January, and soon caused a very decided change in the condition of affairs. Mrs. Porter is still there. Dr. Rogers, of the 59th Indiana, who then had charge, went home with his regiment, (veteran,) early in February, and it is now under the charge of Surgeon Early, of the 17th Iowa, an energetic and efficient officer. It now (March 18th, 1864,) contains 1,828 patients.

This has been delayed so long, because some days ago Mr. Tour told me that he expected you here in a few days. I was told at his office to-day, though, that your coming was uncertain; I therefore send you this as it is. We have twelve or fifteen cases of small-pox. A separate hospital has been established for them. The disease does not seem to increase. I commenced to-day to make a second inspection of our troops. If it is satisfactory to you, I will continue at intervals to keep you informed of our condition, &c. Knowing how constantly your time is occupied, I cannot expect the pleasure of a reply from you, though your doing so would give me great pleasure.

I am, most respectfully, &c.,

J. S. PROUT,

Surgeon 26th Me. Vol's., and Surgeon in Chief.
To Dr. A. N. REED,
U. S. Sanitary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

U. S. GENERAL HOSPITAL, PATTERSON'S PARK,
BALTIMORE, April 6th.

DEAR SIR—I received your note some days ago; delayed the answer, because I wished to take time to reply at length—to answer your query as I think it should be answered. I hope to do so yet, but am exceedingly busy just now.

In the mean time, accept my grateful assurances that, in my opinion, the mission of the United States Sanitary Commission is a noble one; that its members have ever done their duty well; and that very much suffering among the soldiers has been alleviated through their instrumentality, that could not, under the circumstances, have been reached by any means in possession of surgeons in the field.

It is true that the Government provides liberally, very liberally, for the sick and wounded; but the Sanitary Commission has, to my knowledge, provided for them when the Government could not; and it is, to say the least, ungrateful on the part of officers, as well as men, to refuse to acknowledge the benefits received.

God speed the Sanitary Commission, until you hear from me again.

Believe me, yours truly,

(Signed,)

THOS. SIM,

Surgeon U. S. Vol's., in charge of Patterson Park Hospital, late Medical Director 3rd A. C.

DR. STIKER,

Office San. Com., Washington.

U. S. A. GENERAL HOSPITAL,
CAMDEN STREET, BALTIMORE, Md.,
March 26th, 1864.

MR. J. T. PANCOAST,

Agent U. S. Sanitary Commission:

SIR—I take this method of expressing to you my personal thanks, for the prompt manner in which you have at all times filled all requests for sanitary clothing and supplies, which from time to time I have made for the benefit and use of the sick and wounded soldiers in this hospital; and I take this occasion to reiterate what I have often before declared, that, from nearly three years' varied experience in hospital and field, I am fully convinced that clothing and other contributions from the people to the soldiers are, with much more facility, uniformity and certainty, distributed among the sick soldiers in the field and hospitals, through the medium of the Sanitary Commission, than by any other means heretofore adopted.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

Z. E. BLISS,

Surgeon U. S. Vol's., in charge of Hospital.

HEADQUARTERS, HOSPITAL 1ST DIV. 2D CORPS,
March 12th, 1864.

DOCTOR—I desire to express, in a more tangible manner than by words, my appreciation of the Sanitary Commission as an institution. The amount of good which is being done in the Army of the Potomac daily by the Commission, cannot be over-estimated. Although I have never been visited officially by the agent of this corps, since I have been in the charge of this hospital, yet I have been able to procure an abundance of supplies of all kinds from the officer at Brandy Station, by which means I am not only enabled to make the patients under my charge comfortable, but to afford them a degree of luxury. When the history of this war shall have been written, it will be found that the Sanitary Commission has acted no mean part towards putting down the rebellion.

I am, Doctor,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed,)

W. W. POTTER,

Surgeon in Charge.

DR. WINSLOW,

Inspector Sanitary Commission.

The following extracts are from a letter written by Mr. F. C. Sessions, of Columbus, Ohio, who has lately visited the Army of the Potomac, to look into the condition of troops from that State, at the request of the Governor. Speaking of Ohio soldiers, he says:

These regiments have been remarkably healthy for the last year. The 4th has not lost a man by disease since a year ago last December. The 8th has lost but two by disease. This speaks well for Ohio surgeons. A more faithful and intelligent class of men I never saw—enthusiastic and devoted to their profession; I have noticed them now in nearly all of our armies, east and south, with pride and satisfaction. They all express themselves in the highest terms of the Sanitary Commission, and its noble work; and but for its labors, many a poor soldier, now serving his country, would have been in his grave. Its business with this army is immense. Each station is charged with every article sent them; and the agents are obliged to report vouchers from the surgeons of the regiments receiving articles for every thing given out, and make a weekly report of all their expenses, &c.

I examined the report of the agents of the Sanitary Commission at Culpepper and Brandy Station, and found our Ohio regiments had been supplied with all that the surgeons desired. Every requisition had been promptly filled by the Commission, and the surgeons expressed themselves highly grateful for their generous aid.

One remarked: "God only knows how we should have suffered at Antietam, Gettysburg, and other battle-fields, without their assistance." He mentioned the numerous articles supplied by the Commission, which the Government do not furnish. Each surgeon is obliged to give a receipt for each article that they receive, and that they will honorably distribute the same to the sick and wounded of their respective regiments or hospitals. Captain Harris, the efficient and gentlemanly superintendent of the Relief Corps, was formerly from Ohio, and takes special pleasure in caring for Ohio men; he was for two years a captain in the army. Col. Poter, formerly commander of Camp Chase, has charge of the Commission in Gen. Sigel's department, at Harper's Ferry. The army has been remarkably healthy this winter, and never stronger, morally or physically.

HOSPITAL GARDENS.

These laudable institutions flourish apace, and promise to be of the greatest utility to the army. Of that at Chattanooga, Mr. M. C. Reed writes as follows: "The garden of

one hundred acres and a little more is now fenced, and arrangements made for all the land we may desire to use adjoining it. It is well furnished with tools of all kinds. To-morrow I shall send out an additional harrow just finished, and a portable blacksmith's forge for repairs. It remains only to secure the erection of barracks for the men, gardeners, store-room for the seeds and tools, and a shelter for the horses, and my work for providing material will be nearly finished. The fencing party will go to work at the vineyard to-morrow. We intend to make the garden and the vineyard supply fully the wants of all the sick and wounded accessible from this point, so far as vegetables are concerned, from midsummer until late in the fall; and although it requires quite a large expenditure for seed, it seems to me it is good economy to put under cultivation as much of this splendid soil as we can cultivate well."

Mr. Thomas Wills, the superintending gardener, writes at a later date, March 25:

I am getting along well. We have planted some forty-five bushels of potatoes, twelve of onions, seven of peas—some of which are up—and have in our hot-beds, cabbage, mustard, lettuce and tomatoes, all growing finely. I have twenty-five men and thirty-six horses on the land, which is most beautifully situated, and very rich. We have also two vineyards, one of sixteen acres, the other containing fourteen thousand eight hundred vines.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FESTIVAL AT SING SING.

Editor San. Com. Bulletin:

I am glad to see that you receive, and publish, communications even from villages; and as the little rills all contribute to swell the volume of our noble Hudson, as it pours into the great Atlantic, so do the contributions from hamlet and village aid in the great work done by the Woman's Central Association; may we, loyal women of Sing Sing, have a little space to tell of our festival? In February last, fearfully, and with but little hope of success, one of our directresses suggested a Festival, and a meeting of the young ladies from each of the village churches was called. The enthusiastic manner in which they responded to the call banished all fear—"No such word as fail," they said, and valiantly they sallied forth; loyal men, fearful men, half-way patriots, whole copperheads, no one was passed by, and if there was a single man, woman, or child, who refused their mite, we don't know, and don't want to know who they are. For two days before the festival, down poured the rain, and pitifully through mud of the thickest kind plowed the horses, and yet there were young men and

maidens from miles back in the country working at wet, cold evergreens, that made one shiver to look at. The great day arrived—long tables were set, and so the good things came with a perfect rush. Huge turkeys, chickens, hams, tongues, rounds of beef garnished with exquisite flowers in full bloom, and budding japonicas red and white—"from whose green house did they come?" Why they are made of homeliest materials—turnips and beets! chicken pies, tarts, great milk pans full of doughnuts, crullers, jumbles, and a dozen different kinds of real home-made cakes, biscuits, loaves of home-made bread, pine-apples of golden butter, oysters, ice-cream, jellies, blanc mange, tea, coffee, fruits—will they never cease coming? Every table is groaning under the weight of delicacies. Distracted women, with huge, white aprons, rush about, and wonder where they will stow the supplies; young girls mischievously titter at their perplexity, and feel elated at the success of their exertions; efficient young men come to the help of the matrons, improvising on the stage that occupies one end of the spacious hall, a store-room. Three o'clock comes very early; the young girls, each with a white apron tied about the trim waist, and the dear colors, the red, white, blue on their loyal bosoms, take their stands. At the head of the room is a small table of fancy work, got up in haste, but creditable to the taste and industry of the fair fingers. The two large military schools are among the first visitors, and linger until discipline obliges their exit; they are staunch patrons and loyal boys—each boy averaging three suppers, at least; he is good for that amount, or more. Nearly one hundred well-behaved lads are there, and the feast and the fun goes on—until twelve o'clock the "cry is still they come," provisions and guests, and the hall is crowded to its utmost capacity; the wonder grows how the children can eat so much, and the managers feel that a separate donation and vote of thanks should be sent by the physicians of the village, all that week, for cases of surfeit and indigestion. There will surely be an increased practice for them. Early the next morning, a faithful few appear on the scene of action. The evergreens are still beautiful, the canary birds are singing shrilly, the pictures and banners are all right, the store-house is full. True, all the bouquets are sold, the fancy table is cleared, but there are catables enough to warrant another evening's entertainment. So they set to work resolutely, and the debris of the feast is cleared away, and by five o'clock the tables again are filled, and again the crowd pour in. An auction sale concludes the evening, and the tired managers, too tired to count their gains, gladly

divide the surplus of meats among the poor and needy. In donations and sales they had taken in \$820! Think of that in proportion with Chicago, Albany, and Boston; they had done well—a little village, destitute of the summer visitors, who always give so liberally to fairs and festivals, the road—in a fearful state, too. It was a great success, and most thankfully was it felt to be such by the managers, who knew of an empty treasury, and the sore need of our war-worn and sick soldiers. A committee of gentlemen have organized a series of lectures in aid of the Sing Sing Society, and Mr. Belden, Dr. Fox, and George Wm. Curtis, have delivered lectures to good, and appreciative audiences, refusing all compensation for their services. Dr. Foster, the loyal and eloquent Methodist clergyman, closes the course next week. Mr. Editor, does not Sing Sing deserve a corner in the Bulletin?

OSHEENING.

PATRIOTIC UNITY—HOW IT IS TO BE FOSTERED.

All true friends of their country, desire to see, at this moment above all, united devotion to her cause—and they rejoice at every effort to avert discord. For this reason many readers were glad to see this extract repeated in your editorial column:

We believe the great body of the Democrats of the North are at heart loyal; tens of thousands of them are in the field to-day—Heaven shield them!—we are proud to name such men, and to be defended by them in this trial hour.—*Democrat, April 4th.*

It was as just as it was generous. Thoughtful men prize and applaud such niterances, for they know our country needs them now. In the same spirit and to the same end, is your vindication of the motives and aims of the friends, promoters, and managers of the great Sanitary Fairs. And it was this that prompted me to take up my pen this morning, and that has led me to ask the insertion of this article:

Let me quote you here again—

"When we think of the earnestness, the Christian benevolence, the self-sacrificing devotion, with which the kind-hearted ladies of our city engaged in the Sanitary Fair; when we think of the generosity with which the good and pure-minded, without distinction of party or sect, contributed to its success; when we recall the emotions of pleasure with which the proceeds were forwarded to the relief of the prostrate sick and wounded soldiers in our hospitals, the heart is filled with gratitude to the kind Author of our existence for having created us with benevolent hearts and generous impulses.

"We regard the munificent contributions for the relief of the suffering heroes of the

battle-field, as one of the most praiseworthy exhibitions of the kind-heartedness of this noble people. Of their unspeakable benefit to the soldiers, no one will doubt. In short, we have heard a most intelligent army surgeon, high in position, remark, that without the aid of the Sanitary Commission the sick and wounded could not be treated with common humanity. "In fact," said he, "I doubt whether we should carry on the war without it!"

The Sanitary Commission, Mr. Editor, has been singularly fortunate in escaping insinuations of sinister design and selfish purpose, which any unusual efforts of human zeal are pretty sure to draw from those who have no faith in lofty motives. I have heard them, in whispers, here and there. But the first and only formal embodiment of them which has met my eyes, is in the malignant extract which drew forth your remarks—started in some New Hampshire paper. May I ask you to reprint it here, as a specimen "to send to the Fair," and to elucidate my argument.

"By the way, we notice that these great so-called Sanitary Fairs, purporting to be for the purpose of procuring aid and comfort for the sick and wounded soldiers, are having an extensive run through the country. The alleged object may be a good one, but in looking over the names of the managers in every instance, we are led to believe that the whole thing is a political trick, very much like the Kansas Aid Societies of 1855-56, to raise funds for the Abolitionists to carry the Presidential election. These managers are leading Administration men, with a liberal sprinkling of those political nondescripts called, for the want of a better name, 'War Democrats.'"

The author of this ungenerous calumny has doubtless long ago been answered by New Hampshire women. For they have been among the foremost in personal interest and work, and furnishing supplies to the distributing hand of the Sanitary Commission.

I remember well the comfort that was given at one of the Commission's depots, during the rain and mud, on the dark and memorable night of re-crossing the Rappahannock from Chambersville, as I dealt out a box of New Hampshire supplies, and read aloud the greetings from those who sent them, which I found lengthened in some of the New Hampshire "feelings." And they were New York soldiers who received them, as it happened; and I was a New Yorker, dealing them out. I felt towards New Hampshire then, as a part of our common country, as nothing else could have made me feel. And I "took to" the Sanitary Commission, as being (over and above its immediate utility as a healer to the bodies of the soldiers,) a great institution for a moral end; for fostering a national spirit.

No agency has been so promotive of a pure patriotic spirit in this war; of a national patriotism; of loyal sympathy with Government, irrespective of political affinities; and of enthusiastic interest in our armies, as contending for the nation's life. It accepted war, and I accept it in the field as a fact. It took up the saving of life and health in the armies of the nation as a duty. It rejoiced in being the ministering servant of the homes of our soldiers, in carrying to them the solaces of home.

It eschewed all differences and questions of opinion in politics and religion, and suppressed their manifestations, to the utmost of its power, as I know, in its counsels and among its agents.

Democrats, Republicans, Radicals—yes, and Copperheads, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians; Unitarians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists—men and women of all varieties of creed and opinion, have met, and consulted, and labored, and given together, and hence learned to respect and esteem each other, and to draw nearer to each other; lowering the fence of separation, and mollifying the harshnesses of antagonism, on this broad platform of national patriotism and humane sympathy. And very many of them have learned to prize the privilege as providential, and as a compensation to be made much of, amid all the alienation, and grief, and havoc, which war inevitably brings along with it.

You will not wonder, then, that the writer should sympathize in your endeavor to rouse indignation at unworthy aim, from this great agency for promoting and fostering patriotic unity.

Yours,
J. V.

—Rochester Democrat.

NOTES ON NURSING.

TAKING FOOD.

Every careful observer of the sick will agree to this, that thousands of patients are annually starved in the midst of plenty, from want of attention to the ways which alone make it possible for them to take food. This want of attention is as remarkable in those who urge upon the sick to do what is quite impossible to them, as in the sick themselves, who will not make the effort to do what is perfectly possible to them.

For instance, to the large majority of very weak patients it is quite impossible to take any solid food before 11 A. M., nor then, if their strength is still further exhausted by fasting till that hour. For weak patients have generally feverish nights and, in the morning, dry mouths; and, if they could eat with those dry mouths, it would be the worse for them. A spoonful of beef-ten, of arrowroot and wine, of egg flip, every hour, will give them the requisite nourishment, and prevent them from being too much exhausted to take at a later hour the solid food, which is necessary for their recovery. And every patient who can swallow at all can swallow

these liquid things, if he chooses. But how often do we hear a mutton-chop, an egg, a bit of bacon, ordered to a patient for breakfast, to whom (as a moment's consideration would show us) it must be quite impossible to masticate such things at that hour.

Again, a nurse is ordered to give a patient a tea-cup full of some article of food every three hours. The patient's stomach rejects it. If so, try a table-spoon full every hour; if this will not do, a tea spoon full every quarter of an hour.

I am bound to say, that I think more patients are lost, by want of care and ingenuity in these momentous minutiae, in private nursing than in public hospitals. And I think there is more of the *entente cordiale* to assist one another's hands between the doctor and his head nurse in the latter institutions, than between the doctor and the patient's friends in the private house.

If we did but know the consequences which may ensue, in very weak patients, from ten minutes' fasting or repletion, (I call it repletion when they are obliged to let too small an interval elapse between taking food and some other exertion, owing to the nurse's unpunctuality,) we should be more careful never to let this occur. In very weak patients there is often a nervous difficulty of swallowing, which is so much increased by any other call upon their strength that, unless they have their food punctually at the minute, which minute again must be arranged so as to fall in with no other minute's occupation, they can take nothing till the next respite occurs—so that an unpunctuality or delay of ten minutes, may very well turn out to be one of two or three hours. And why is it not as easy to be punctual to a minute? Life often literally hangs upon these minutes.

In acute cases, where life or death is to be determined in a few hours, these matters are very generally attended to, especially in Hospitals; and the number of cases is large where the patient is, as it were, brought back to life by exceeding care on the part of the Doctor or Nurse, or both, in ordering and giving nourishment with minute selection and punctuality.

But in chronic cases, lasting over months and years, where the fatal issue is often determined at last by mere protracted starvation, I had rather not enumerate the instances which I have known where a little ingenuity, and a great deal of perseverance, might, in all probability, have averted the result. The consulting the hours, when the patient can take food; the observation of the times, often varying, when he is most faint; the altering seasons of taking food, in order to anticipate and prevent such times—all this, which requires observation, ingenuity, and perseverance, (and these really constitute the good nurse,) might save more lives than we wot of.

To have the patient's untasted food by his side, from meal to meal, in hopes that he will eat it in the interval, is simply to prevent him from taking any food at all. I have known patients literally incapacitated from taking one article of food after another, by this piece of ignorance. Let the food come at the right time, and be taken away, eaten or not, at the right time; but never let a patient have "something always standing" by him, if you don't wish to disgust him of everything.

On the other hand, I have known a patient's life saved (he was sinking for want of food) by the simple question, put to him by the doctor, "But is there no hour when you feel you could eat?" "Oh, yes," he said, "I could always take something at — o'clock and — o'clock." The thing was tried and succeeded. Patients very seldom, however, can tell this; it is for you to watch and find it out.

A patient should, if possible, not see or smell either the food of others, or a greater amount of food than he himself can consume at one time, or even hear food talked about, or see it in the raw state. I know of no exception to the above rule. The breaking of it always induces a greater or less incapacity of taking food.

In hospital wards it is of course impossible to observe all this; and in single wards, where a patient must be continuously and closely watched, it is frequently impossible to relieve the attendant, so that his or her own meals can be taken out of the ward. But it is not the less true that, in such cases, even where the patient is not himself aware of it, his possibility of taking food is limited by seeing the attendant eating meals under his observation. In some cases the sick are aware of it, and complain. A case where the patient was supposed to be insensible, but complained as soon as able to speak, is now present to my recollection.

Remember, however, that the extreme punctuality in well-ordered hospitals, the rule that nothing shall be done in the ward while the patients are having their meals, go far to counterbalance what unavoidable evil there is in having patients together. I have often seen the private nurse go on dusting or fidgeting about in a sick room, all the while the patient is eating, or trying to eat.

That the more alone an invalid can be when taking food, the better, is unquestionable; and, even if he must be fed, the nurse should not allow him to talk, or talk to him, especially about food, while eating.

When a person is compelled, by the pressure of occupation, to continue his business while sick, it ought to be a rule, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION WHATSOEVER, that no one shall bring business to him or talk to him while he is taking food, nor go on talking to him on interesting subjects up to the last moment before his meals, nor make an engagement with him immediately after, so that there be any hurry of mind while taking them.

Upon the observance of these rules, especially the first, often depends the patient's capability of taking food at all, or, if he is amiable, and forces himself to take food, of deriving any nourishment from it.

A nurse should never put before a patient milk that is sour, meat or soup that is turned, an egg that is bad, or vegetables underdone. Yet often I have seen these things brought in to the sick in a state perfectly perceptible to every nose or eye except the nurse's. It is here the clever nurse appears; she will not bring in the peccant article, but, not to disappoint the patient, she will whip up something else in a few minutes. Remember that sick cookery should half do the work of your poor patient's weak digestion. But if you further impair it with your bad articles, I know not what is to become of him or of it.

If the nurse is an intelligent being, and not a mere carrier of diets to and from the patient, let her exercise her intelligence in these things. How often we have known a patient eat nothing at all in the day, because one meal was left untasted, (at that time he was incapable of eating,) at another the milk was sour, the third was spoiled by some other accident. And it never occurred to the nurse to extemporize some expedient—it never occurred to her that as he had had no solid food that day he might eat a bit of toast (say) with his tea in the evening, or he might have some meal an hour earlier. A patient who cannot touch his dinner at two, will often accept it gladly, if brought to him at seven. But somehow nurses never "think of these things." One would imagine they did not consider themselves bound to exercise their judgment; they leave it to the patient. Now I am quite sure that it is better for a patient rather to suffer these neglects than to try to teach his nurse to nurse him, if she does not know how. It ruffles him, and if he is ill he is in no condition to teach, especially upon himself. The above remarks apply much more to private nursing than to hospitals.

I would say to the nurse, have a rule of thought about your patient's diet; consider, remember how much he has had, and how much he ought to have to-day. Generally, the only rule of the private patient's diet is what the nurse has to give. It is true she cannot give him what she has not got, but his stomach does not wait for her convenience, or even her necessity. Why, because the nurse has not got some food to-day which the patient takes, can the patient wait four hours for food to-day, who could not wait two hours yesterday? Yet this is the only logic one generally hears. On the other hand, the other logic, viz., of the nurse giving a patient a thing because she has got it, is equally fatal. If she happens to have fresh jelly, or fresh fruit, she will frequently give it to the patient half an hour after his dinner, or at his dinner, when he cannot, possibly eat that and the broth too—or worse still, leave it by his bedside till he is so sickened with the sight of it, that he cannot eat it at all. If it is used to having its stimulus at one hour to-day, and tomorrow it does not have it, because she has failed in getting it, he will suffer. She must be always exercising her ingenuity to supply defects, and to remedy accidents which will happen among the best contrivers, but from which the patient does not suffer the less, because "they cannot be helped."

One very minute caution,—take care not to spill into your patient's saucer, in other words take care that the out-side bottom rim of his cup shall be quite dry and clean; if every time he lifts his cup to his lips, he has to carry the saucer with it, or else to drop the liquid upon, and to soil his sheet or his bed-gown, or pillow, or if he is sitting up, his dress, you have no idea what a difference this minute want of care on your part makes to his comfort and even to his willingness for food.—*Miss Nightingale.*

22.—We shall publish in our next a number of protests from Surgeons of the Army of the Potomac against the statement of a correspondent of the *Evening Post* of April 1st, that certain Generals deny that the Commission has rendered any important service in this army.

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For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

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In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

As Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to State or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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WM. M. WHITNEY 2d Vice-President and Secretary.

PARTICIPATION**FIRE INSURANCE.**

NORTH AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.**INCORPORATED 1823.**

CASH CAPITAL,	- - - - -	\$500,000 00
ASSETS,	- - - - -	604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over	
Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	\$157,360 00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value..	364,385 00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603 11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000 00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,884 00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220 39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788 83
Other Property of Company	793 75
	\$604,535 59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years*.

The Customers receive **Three-Fourths** of the Net Profits of the business each year, without incurring any liability whatever.

R. W. BLEECKER, Sec'y.**JAMES W. OTIS, Pres't.****R. F. MASON, Superintendent of Agencies.**

DUR YEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS

(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."**MAIZENA,**

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

At the FAIR of the NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, at Utica, N. Y., September, 1863, received both DIPLOMA and MEDAL.

MAIZENA,

AT THE

Pennsylvania State Fair at Norristown,

OCT. 3, 1863, TOOK GOLD MEDAL.

"MAIZENA" has also taken the first premium at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE, New York City; NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR at Trenton, and at other places—in every instance where it has been exhibited.

"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

MAIZENA,

For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

Put up in one pound packages, under the trade mark "Maizena," with directions for use.

A most delicious article of food for children and invalids of all ages. For sale by Grocers and Druggists everywhere.

WHOLESALE DEPOT, 166 FULTON STREET.**WM. DUR YEA, General Agent.**

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, MAY 15, 1864.

No. 14.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 63 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

THE EFFECTS OF THE FAIRS ON OUR FUNDS.

It will surprise the country, no doubt, but it is nevertheless strictly true, that however great the credit done by the Sanitary Fairs to the charity and patriotism of the people, they have thus far resulted in loss rather than in gain to the Sanitary Commission. So far from assuring its future, they have placed it in some peril. Instead of filling the treasury to overflowing, as many people imagine, they bid fair at this moment to be instrumental in bringing our funds down, during the coming summer, to a lower point than they have ever reached before.

This is in a great measure due to the exaggerated estimate of their returns, which the public has formed. The Fairs have been attended, and naturally so, with a great deal of enthusiasm, and have been got up and conducted by great exertions on the part both of managers and contributors. They have been, perhaps, the most remarkable exhibitions of benevolence ever witnessed, and have produced a profound impression on the public mind, and they have brought us in a large sum of money. We have received from all of them, so far, \$429,000; we expect to receive from the New York Fair over \$1,000,000—in all, about \$1,400,000. Now this, in addition to what we have been receiving hitherto, would have not only placed our existing operations on a firm basis during the coming year, but would have enabled us to extend them considerably, which there is great need of our doing. Our receipts in supplies last year amounted to \$2,000,000; at the rate at which they have been coming in during the last four months, they will not

this year, amount to more than \$1,000,000; in other words, they have fallen off exactly one-half. This leaves the value of our receipts, including those derived from the Fairs, nominally, what it was in 1863, but in reality much lower. The million dollars worth of supplies which we received last year, we have this year to purchase ourselves, at prices which are certainly twenty-five per cent. higher than they were twelve months ago, so that instead of being so rich that we do not know what to do with our money, we are suffering from the Fairs a deduction from our previous income of at least \$250,000.

This is a result we need hardly say, which was not foreseen when the Fairs were started. If the public now cease to support us as before, it would have been vastly better for the soldiers that not one of them had ever been held. And unless the people resume their contributions of supplies, and leave us the proceeds of the Fairs as a clear addition to our income, we shall have to curtail our operations instead of extending them.

There is a good deal of pains taken in many quarters by persons who have never given the matter five minutes' examination, to spread this misapprehension as to the extent of our resources. It is constantly stated in public and private, that we have more money than we need, and that not only ought there be no more contributions made to us, but a portion of those which we have actually received ought to be devoted to the establishment of an asylum for invalid soldiers. There is nothing that we desire more than to be able to provide an institution of this kind. The subject has been long under consideration, and we are ready to take up work the moment we find we have something to spare after meeting the necessities of the battle-field. But we doubt if anybody will assert that the man who is lying mangled on the field, or in the hospital, has no: the first and strongest claim on our assistance. As long as battles are occurring or likely to occur, such as the recent ones in Virginia, lasting twice as long and disabbling twice as many men as anybody expected, and leaving miles of country covered with dead and dying, we certainly cannot take upon ourselves, and

the public will not expect us to do so, to withhold from one sick or wounded man, on any pretence whatever, any assistance which he needs and which it is in our power to render. Our first duty is to assist in curing him of his wound, or his fever; our next, to assist in taking care of him afterwards. At present, we are only equal to the discharge of one of them; it remains with the public to say whether we are to discharge both.

We do not doubt that much of the falling off in the contributions of goods, is due to the exhaustion of household stores and the enormous rise in the price of nearly every article of general consumption. To the mass of people throughout the country it is undoubtedly harder to give now than it was two years ago. All we can say on this point is, that an increase of sacrifice and privation is the inevitable consequence of the prolongation of the war. The longer it lasts, the more we must all suffer, the citizen at home as well as the soldier in the field. We shall have every week a greater number of wounded and disabled men on our hands, whom it is our duty to take care of, and it is a duty which we cannot and ought not to shirk. It, no doubt, every day costs more to do it, but it is none the less sacred and imperative for all that. To this, people must make up their minds. We as well as the army in the field, have enlisted for the war, be it long or short.

We are glad to say the indications now are that it will be very short. There is every reason to believe that the coming summer will put an end to all fighting on a great scale. If the military operations continue as they have begun, it is all but certain that we shall see them reduced by next November to mere police duty against guerrillas, leaving the Medical Department abundantly able to meet all demands on it, whether ordinary or extraordinary. During the interval between now and then, however, the Sanitary Commission will need, and earnestly requests from the public the same amount and the *same kind* of support which it has hitherto received. In other words, the Fairs have not rendered the regular collection and transmission of clothing, vegetables, stimulants, delicacies, linen, lint, and, in fact,

of every article that sick or wounded men can need, one whit less necessary than ever.

The General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission has addressed the following letter to the *Boston Journal*, in correction of some recent statements of that paper; giving also an interesting account of the general results of the fairs lately held for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission:

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, 822 B'WAY, }
NEW YORK, April 29, 1864. }

To the Editor of the *Boston Journal*:

In the *Journal* of the 27th inst. is an article, headed "The Sanitary and Christian Commissions," in which you remark, after a well-deserved commendation of the Christian Commission and its peculiar work, that the "Sanitary Commission has now more funds than it can judiciously spend, if the war continues a year longer; that its storehouses are filled with goods, and its treasury is overflowing." This statement is very erroneous, and of a character to injure the cause of the United States Sanitary Commission. The storehouses of the Commission are not "filled with goods." The series of fairs has arrested the flow of sanitary stores to such an extent, that the receipts at the storehouses of the Commission have for some months past been at least *fifty per cent. less* than for a corresponding period of 1863. Previously to the series of fairs lately held, the Sanitary Commission received about six dollars' worth of stores to every dollar in money, and could barely meet the urgent demands for supplies in the field and hospitals, by economizing its expenditures, and by very large purchases of such articles as condensed milk, condensed coffee, stimulants, anti-scorbutics, bed clothing and hospital clothing.

The Sanitary Commission has not received into its treasury all the funds raised by the fairs; more than half has gone into the treasuries of branch associations, and been expended in the purchase of supplementary stores. If the Sanitary Commission had received all the money raised by the various fairs, it still would be straitened in its means by the great falling off in the supply of supplementary stores. As the flow of supplies into the storehouses has fallen off more than fifty per cent., while the demands upon the Commission have everywhere increased, you can readily understand that the necessity of purchasing out of the funds of the Commission, at the present high prices of every thing, not only prevents any thing like an "overflowing" treasury, but threatens a rapid exhaustion. The Sanitary Commission has now existed

nearly three years, and attained a large measure of the confidence of the public and of the national forces. Its operations reach every column of the army, and meet a corresponding dependence on the part of the soldiers. If the people are persuaded that the Sanitary Commission has grown rich, and therefore in need of nothing, in less than two months the storehouses of the Commission will be empty and its treasury exhausted, in the vain attempt to eke out the funds raised by the fairs in the purchase of the supplies of flannel under-clothing, dried fruits, blankets, stimulants, &c., &c.

The people all over the country must be stimulated to continue their contributions of stores, or else the victims of the fearful campaigns now pending will fail to receive the full measure of succor and comfort that they have heretofore received from the homes of the land, through the agency of the United States Sanitary Commission. Let the Christian Commission be sustained in its glorious work, but let it not be by any diversion of either stores or money for such a purpose from the channels of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

Gen. Sec. of the U. S. Sanitary Com'n.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN PREVENTING DISEASE.

As the sickly season in the regions occupied by our armies is again approaching, and large numbers of raw troops are going into camp, we deem it well to call attention to the preventive department of our work—that of "inspection," which, in the excitement caused by the sufferings of those who have fallen in action, is apt to be overlooked, and yet the gaps made in our ranks by disease are far greater than those caused by even bullets or bayonets.

A large portion of the national army is in a section of country notorious for the production of malaria, an enemy more insidious and more dangerous than all the physical forces that the rebels can bring to bear against the loyal troops. The records of the human race are filled with instances which prove the truth of which we speak. The rapid and overwhelming disaster to the forces of Sennacherib is familiar to readers of history, but it was scarcely more rapid or more crushing than the malarious destruction of the French army in 1528, which, while preparing to besiege the forts pro-

teefing Baize, was almost totally destroyed by disease. Of 28,000, but 4,000 remained alive, and they were helpless.

In Wellington's Peninsular Campaigns, from January, 1811, to 1814, the battle of Albuera, (one of the most desperate and bloody of the Peninsular War,) Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse, were fought, and Badajoz, Ciudad Rodrigo and San Sebastian were stormed, besides many skirmishes not included in the list of battles, the entire loss in battles was 2,550, while that from sickness was 7,257.

The average annual loss of the whole British Army during the Peninsular War was one hundred and sixty-five men out of every thousand. Of these, one hundred and thirteen died by disease or accident.

From 1803 to 1812, the average annual death-rate of the whole British Army "abroad" was 80 per 1,000—71 by disease, and 9 by wounds in action. In the war with Burmah, the loss by military forces was thirty-five per thousand, and from sickness the loss was four hundred and fifty per thousand.

In July, Aug. and Sept., 1854, the British Army in the Crimea lost at the rate of two hundred and ninety-three men out of every thousand per annum. Ninety-six per cent. of this loss was from disease. During the next three months, October, November and December, 1854, their loss was at the annual rate of five hundred and eleven out of every thousand—seven-eighths of which loss was by disease. In January, 1855, it was at the rate of 1,174 per 1,000 per annum—97 per cent. of this loss being due to disease. During the first three months of that year it was at the annual rate of 912 per 1,000—and ninety-eight per cent. of the loss was due to disease.

While the armies were encamped in the valley of Varna, "in the midst of large shallow lakes, surrounded by level, spongy lands, indented with little hollows, dried and cracked by the recession and evaporation of the winter floods—low brushwood, rank in vegetation, bounding uplands, a deficiency of potable water, with a high temperature, we have all the elements of a devastating sickness. In the high temperature of the day, heavy masses of steam

spread themselves over the camps, and at night heavy, chilling dews invaded every part of the camp, and carried poison to every sleeper. The tents were thin and permeable, the rations execrable, and no protecting care was exercised." A medical philosopher, with these facts before him, knows the result already. The French and Turks suffered terribly. Macleod says the hospitals recalled the horrors of Boccaccio. Half of the army of Espinasse, in the Dobrutchka, disappeared as by a whirlwind, and the panic among the survivors was beyond description. Cholera, intermittent and remittent fever, typhus, and dysentery took possession of the camps—the encampment was broken up, and the army fled precipitately from the scene of the disaster—but the enemy retained possession of the men, and the horrors of Varna continued to follow them. The survivors continued for years to feel the dreadful visitation of the Dobrutchka, and those who seemed to have passed unscathed, showed in subsequent wounds that the seeds of the poison of the camp had been merely latent. Among the English, there were in three months 897 deaths from cholera, and 75 from dysentery and diarrhea. Dr. Aitkin says: "My estimates lend with still greater force to the conclusion, that the amount of sickness at Varna was greater than that of the French army in Spain, and nearly as great as the army of Portugal while engaged in very active campaigns, and this, too, though not a soldier on Lord Raglan's army had fired a shot." From October, 1854, to April, 1855, the army of 23,775 men, lost 9,248 by sickness, and 608 by wounds. In the last six months of the Crimean campaign, including the final assaults which carried Sebastopol, the French had 21,957 men wounded, and 101,128 cases of sickness.

Now, the great mass of this sickness was avoidable, and should have been prevented. In the Italian campaigns, Napoleon guarded his troops against the disasters connected with localities. He never encamped his armies in the neighborhood of malarial sources when he could avoid it, and when compelled to make such an encampment, he always built fires at night between his army and the sources of this poison. We earnestly wish that we could engrave in

vivid letters upon the memories of those who have the management of the American camps the following truths of Sir Baltingall. He says: "The experience of all ages has proved that the neighborhood of marshes, grounds subject to overflow by large rivers, surrounded by foul stagnating water, or low places covered with wood, are most injurious to health, and the noxious effluvia arising from these situations are augmented in proportion to the heat of the climate or the season of the year."

In all perils of this kind, the camp should be pitched so that the evening wind will blow the marsh air in an opposite direction from the camp. When this cannot be done, fires should be burned all night between the sources of the malaria and the camp. Malaria never acts in daytime nor at night upon a wakeful person in motion. Sentinels may walk in safety where a sleeping army may be almost destroyed. No garbage should be permitted about camps. Let it be buried or thrown into running water. It should not be burned in camp.

As the sun climbs the ecliptic, he scatters the seeds of sickness northward. Rio Janeiro, Pernambuco, Cuba, Tampico, Vera Cruz, New Orleans, Vicksburg, and places farther northward take their turn. The cause of pestilence is now incubating in the regions held by our armies. They can and must be protected from the pestilence that walks in darkness only to those who wilfully shut their eyes. The men must be well fed, for there is a great truth in the aphorism, "that the first condition of health is the good condition of the stomach." M. Worms, in his work, "*Des Mâadies de la Province de Constantine*," says: "Those who are well nourished pass through or even sojourn with impunity in localities where others meet with disease and death. In the army, where soldiers and officers are exposed to the same morbid influences, the average deaths are one in twelve of the former to one in fifty-four of the latter. The officers, by the proper nourishment and the use of fermented liquors, sustain the vital energy, which has a tendency to fall into inertia, and so escape the effects of malaria, which makes ravages around them. The Commissioners of Inquiry of the British Army of Sierra Leone found

that the main cause of the fearful mortality from diseases of the digestive organs there, two-fifths of the cases having proved fatal, arose from the use of salt rations, and that by the substitution of a fresh meat diet, the mortality from these diseases was reduced to one-tenth of its former amount. Haliday's testimony is to the same effect."

Up to May 18, 1862, our armies had lost at the rate of fifty-three per thousand per annum, and only forty-four per cent. of that loss was by disease and accident.

The last report of the Secretary of War states the number of patients in General Hospital, June 30, 1863, as 9.1 per cent., and in Field Hospital 4.4 per cent. of the whole national force; and that of this aggregate of 13.5 per cent., 11 were cases of sickness, and 2.5 of wounds or other casualties. This is a most gratifying statement, especially when contrasted with the sickness rates of foreign armies in the field, and of our own during the Mexican war.

In estimating the value of these figures, it must be remembered that the conditions under which our soldiers serve have been generally unfavorable. Their field of operations includes, as we have said, large districts quite as insalubrious as any part of Spain, Portugal, or the Crimea. There has at all times (and especially during the first year of the war) been among them a large proportion of half-disciplined recruits and of inexperienced officers, while the soldiers of Great Britain, in the Peninsula and the Crimea, were regulars under high discipline, and commanded by professional officers. The Commissariat and the Medical Department of the British Army were parts of a system long established and matured. In May, 1862, ours were newly organized, (for the purposes of this war,) and not yet in perfect working order. The Peninsular and Crimean Armies had, therefore, material advantages over our own. Yet we have lost far fewer men by disease. Even on Morris Island, and in the pestilential swamps of the lower Mississippi, our loss by disease has been smaller than that of any army about which we have authentic information. For this great fact—equivalent to the addition of hundreds of millions to our national resources—the nation can never be sufficiently thankful. No human agency

could have insured it. Though the average intelligence and culture of our common soldiers are beyond those of any army ever yet put into the field, and though the medical staff and the Sanitary Commission have worked diligently in their respective spheres, a blessing so great, exceptional, and un hoped for can be attributed to none but the Highest cause.

And yet the Commission claims credit for having contributed in some degree to this happy result, by its system of sanitary inspection of camps, posts and hospitals.

This was the chief object contemplated by the Commission when it was created by Government. As has already been stated, our armies were, during the summer of 1861, in serious danger of destruction by epidemic disease. Modern sanitary science was hardly recognized in the ancient regulations of the medical bureau. Its officers could not be expected to go beyond the strict line of official duty when that duty was more than quadrupled. The first business of the Commission, therefore, was to awaken general attention to the sanitary interests of the army, and to do what it could to improve the sanitary condition of camps, quarters, hospitals, and men.

It sent out medical inspectors forthwith to warn inexperienced officers of the peril to which filth, bad ventilation and bad food exposed their men and themselves. It brought to bear upon Government the influence of the medical profession throughout the country, effected the extension and invigoration of the medical bureau, and secured the express recognition of the prevention of disease, no less than its cure, as among the functions of the medical staff. Government now employs its own sanitary inspectors, and does a certain portion of the preventive work which the Commission did during the first year of its existence. But the Commission still keeps up an inspectorial corps, auxiliary to that of Government, for the latter is numerically unequal to its great work, and there are special causes beside that have thus far interfered with its efficiency.

Each inspector on visiting a camp or post puts himself, in the first place, in communication with its military authorities, and asks their co-operation in his

work. This being secured, he proceeds to investigate the condition of the men in every particular that bears on their liability to disease, and the sufficiency of the remedial agencies within their reach. He inquires into the quality of their water-supply, food, cooking and clothing—the ventilation and the cleanliness of their camp or quarters—the position of their latrines—the provision for the removal and destruction of refuse and offal—the equipment of their field or post hospital—their ambulance service—the competency of their medical officers—the salubrity or insalubrity of their camp-site or post—the sufficiency of their bedding and blankets, the character of the diseases that have prevailed among them, and the precautions thus indicated. On these points he advises the medical and military authorities of the corps as a sanitary expert. His inspection generally discloses something that can be done to promote the health of the command. He finds, for instance, that there are tendencies to malarious disease that call for quinine as a prophylactic, or tendencies to scurvy, that require supplies of fresh vegetables, or that there is a deficiency of stimulants, bedding, articles of hospital diet, or disinfecting material. If the want, whatever it is, can be promptly supplied through the regular official channels, he sees that this is done—but if it cannot, or if (as is often the case) something is required which Government does not undertake to supply, he calls on the relief department of the Commission, which supplies it according to its ability. If the officer who should obtain it be inexperienced in requisitions and supply tables, the inspector is able to assist him. If the defect arise from corruption or incapacity, he reports the fact. It sometimes happens that the health of a camp is endangered by want, not of supplies, but of some work for which authority cannot at once be obtained. In this case money is appropriated by the standing committee, or, in case of emergency, by the associate secretary, on the inspector's report. The Commission has done much work of this class. It has improved the ventilation of hospitals, dug wells to improve the water-supply of camps, built temporary hospitals and quarters, to

replace unwholesome and dangerous buildings, furnished and fitted up hospital transports, and converted ordinary railroad cars into railroad ambulances, with cooking apparatus and store-rooms, and litters hung on springs, in which thousands of men with fractured limbs have traveled thousands of miles without suffering or injury.

The results of every inspection are noted on blanks provided for the purpose, and are severally reported. Each report covers about two hundred distinct points affecting the sanitary condition and wants of the force inspected. More than 2,000 of these reports have been accumulated. They are digested and tabulated, as received, by a competent actuary. It is believed that the body of military and medical statistics thus collected is among the largest and most valuable in existence. It can hardly fail to furnish conclusions of the utmost importance to sanitary science.

The Commission employs other agencies also for the prevention of disease. It urges measures of sanitary reform on the attention of Government. It furnished material for the vaccination of thousands of men at a time, now happily past, when the medical bureau was unable to supply the tenth part of what was needed, and issued what it had only after a fortnight's delay. It has thus stayed the ravages of small-pox in regiments crowded on board transports, after that disease had actually begun to spread among their men.

It has done much beside to protect our soldiers against this peril. During the first year of the war, for instance, all cases of "eruptive disease" in one of our most important military departments were consigned indiscriminately to a single hospital, from which men were "discharged cured" of mumps or measles, and rejoined their regiments to sicken and die of small-pox contracted in this "hospital," so called, and to infect and kill their comrades. It was through the persevering remonstrance and protest of the Commission that this murderous abuse was at last corrected.

The Commission has also circulated throughout the army, and especially among the medical staff, many hundred thousand copies of its medical documents. This series now numbers eighteen publications,

each devoted to some special point of prevention or cure. Some of them are addressed to the individual soldier, but the great majority are for the use of the medical staff, and relate to the prevention or treatment of the diseases to which camps are specially exposed, and to sundry operations of military surgery with which it cannot be expected that surgeons recently appointed from civil life should be generally familiar. These monographs have been prepared at the request of the Commission, by some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the country. Embodying, in a condensed form, the latest results of science, they have been of great use to our army surgeons, who often encounter cases for which their previous practice has not specially prepared them, and who have neither medical libraries nor opportunities for consultation.

The Commission institutes special inspections, also, from time to time, outside of its general inspection system. It employs medical agents to look into the condition of such camps or hospitals as seem to require special attention, and to ascertain and report the wants of our armies during or immediately after a trying campaign. Within the past year it has made a thorough inspection of all general military hospitals, east and west, employing for this purpose medical practitioners of the highest professional standing. Their recommendations of improvement in our hospital system and its administration have been submitted to the proper authorities.

The relief agents of the Commission are not expressly charged with the office of sanitary inspection, but their reports and journals, sent in at short intervals, help to keep the Commission informed of the condition of the army, and of the measures required to maintain it in health, at every point from Annapolis to New Orleans.

As has been already stated, it is, from the nature of the case, impossible accurately to estimate how many men have been saved from death or disease, and how much efficiency has been economized for the country by this preventive service, for though the results of the treatment of disease can be more or less accurately recorded, the result of measures for its prevention cannot be

stated with any kind of certainty. The only attainable data are the percentage of disease among men to whom such preventive measures have been applied, and among those to whom they have not. Though inferences from a comparison of the two are not absolutely to be relied on, (because we can never be quite sure that the conditions of any two cases have been precisely the same,) a comparison of the mortality rates of our army with those of the British armies in the Crimea and during the Peninsular war, which we have given above, will, nevertheless, throw some light on the question.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE FOR GRANT'S ARMY.

Some account will be found in Dr. Steiner's report on another page, of the preparations made by the Field Relief Corps of the Commission for the movement in Virginia. What we have done, and are doing for the wounded of Grant's glorious "eight days" may be gleaned from the following extracts from our reports. Mr. Knapp writes from Washington, May 11:

"You were informed by Dr. Caldwell yesterday that, at 12 M., we sent to Belle Plain the Mary F. Ripley, steam transport, with sixty relief agents and seventy-five or eighty tons of assorted sanitary stores, the vessel having in tow a barge with twenty-one horses and five strong wagons. We have loaded to-day another barge with sixteen horses and four purchased wagons, carrying the necessary forage, and to-night, or at daylight in the morning, she will go down, towed by the tugboat Gov. Curtin, also chartered for the purpose. With these nine teams the supplies can go on to Fredericksburg rapidly, where there is need of them, I can assure you, although Government is making every exertion to supply the needs, and is constantly showing increased ability to put in practice what were last year regarded as only experiments. Thus the Government has prepared, and admirably, two large hospital transports, and has also arranged for feeding the sick on board the other boats which are not regular floating hospitals. A relief agent of the Sanitary Commission came up last night with a large party of the wounded. They arrived here at 2 A. M., having left

Fredericksburg yesterday. He says our relief agents who accompanied the army with their wagons and stores, rendered invaluable service, of which he is writing now a brief report, which I will send you to-morrow. He returns on our tugboat leaving to-night or in the morning.

"To-morrow we hope, at Baltimore, to hire a boat with which to carry another load of supplies up the James River, where there is hard fighting, and likely to be more of it, and where, doubtless, the needs must be great. That boat, if obtained, will take up a quantity of the sauerkraut, vegetables, pickles, &c., ordered for Norfolk. This will save Dr. McDonald the necessity of leaving his post with his storeboat. Twenty-five relief agents either have started, or will start, for Belle Plain this afternoon. We shall send some more to-morrow. Our supplies are thus far abundant."

Dr. Steiner reports:

Belle Plain, Va., May 11.—We steamed down the Potomac without any occurrence of interest until we passed a transport filled with troops, bound for Washington, who gave the flag of the Commission three hearty cheers. Soon after dark we reached our fleet of hospital steamboats and barges, at the wharf of Belle Plain. Here I went ashore with Mr. Fay, and saw Medical Inspector Wilson, to whom I introduced myself. He said: "You see there is enough work to be done here; I need not point it out; look around and you will find it." No sooner said than done. Fay's Auxiliary Relief Corps immediately took hold. It is divided into five divisions. That section under charge of Le Barrons supplied the men on the barges with hot coffee, beef tea and crackers, while the squad under charge of Mr. Denniston pitched a large tent, and made arrangements for getting things to rights. Thus they worked until more than nine hundred wounded men were sent off in one boat, and others prepared to go. These labors have been of the most heartrending description, though the wounded were handled with all possible tenderness.

We have sent off four wagons to Fredericksburg loaded with sanitary supplies. The necessities of this post will require me to remain here to-day. Dr. Cuyler will be in charge, and is here already; and Wilson will go to Fredericksburg, whither Douglas has already gone. Pope goes with the train as storekeeper, and Fay will secure a storehouse for him in some part of the town. On the whole, the wants of the wounded at this point are so great that help is as imperatively demanded, as it must be freely given. The army may have started with splendid supplies, but such an unprecedented series of engagements have never, heretofore, been known, and hence, any amount of regular supplies would be too small to meet the emergency. I have heard that our Field Relief Corps was working in the neighborhood of

Fredericksburg, although a report reaches me that Wilcox—one of the Second Corps Relief Agents was captured with his wagon while coming in from the front. I have sent messages in all directions for the agents to report here, if possible, with their wagons, so as to secure all the necessary supplies for our wounded in the hospitals. I presume to-morrow they will be here.

From Mr. Wilcox, in charge of the Field Relief Agency, with the Third and Fourth Divisions, Second Corps, we get the following:

Wednesday, May 4.—Accompanying the ambulance trains, under charge of Lieut. Shook, of the Third Division, Second Army Corps, (a part of which had moved the evening previous,) we took up the line of march from our camp near Brandy Station, proceeding to Ely's Ford, which point we reached at dark, crossed the run, and bivouacked near the river.

Thursday, May 5.—We continued our march toward Chancellorsville, which point we reached at 9 o'clock A. M., and bivouacked. After an hour's rest the march was resumed in the direction of Todd's Tavern. Up to 3 P. M., nothing indicating the whereabouts of the enemy was apparent at the point of the column occupied by us; but on arriving at a point within about three miles north of Todd's Tavern, skirmishing with musketry, and occasional artillery shots began to be heard. At this time an order was received from Gen. Hancock to change route. We then retraced our steps, and countermarched about two miles, to a point where a road bearing to the right of Todd's Tavern was met, which we took. Marching in this direction several miles, we came upon the rear of our lines, where the wounded were being brought in; and a point was here designated as the hospital of the Third and Fourth Divisions, where I located my wagons and pitched my hospital tent.

It was now quite dark, and the fighting had been conducted with vigor in our front all day, continuing until about 9 o'clock. The wounded were already numerously strewn through the grove where our hospitals were located, and the demands for our sanitary stores became frequent and large. The sanitary supplies were acknowledged by the surgeons in charge as most timely and prompt. Underclothing and blankets were the first articles in demand—the need for the latter being particularly urgent.

It may here be properly remarked, that throughout the line of march from camp at Brandy Station, a great waste of blankets could be noticed. The day was warm, and the soldiers wished to enter the battle unincumbered. The roads were strewn with blankets to an extent which warrants the belief that enough were thrown away to have amply provided for every man who was wounded; whereas, owing to this waste, hundreds were obliged to lie in the night air almost naked, with wounds exposed.

Friday, May 6.—The battle raged to-day in our front with terrific fury, during which our forces were obliged to relinquish three successive advantages gained on the previous day. The business of dispensing sanitary supplies was carried on briskly all day, requiring every

effort to fill the demands. The wagons attached to the First and Second Divisions of our army corps, under Mr. Holbrook, were located at a short distance from my own, though the demands upon them not being so great as our mine. At the close of this day my supplies of clothing, stimulants, &c., &c., were almost entirely exhausted.

Saturday, May 7.—Little fighting took place to-day, but the wounded of yesterday still poured into our hospitals. My stock of clothing and other articles was in a measure renewed by supplies from Mr. Holbrook's wagons. Mr. Johnson and Captain Harris spent a portion of the day at my depot, and the work progressed well.

Sunday, May 8.—Broke camp with division hospital supply train, and went to Chancellorsville, and subsequently to Fredericksburg, (for fresh supplies,) where we bivouacked. On the route from Chancellorsville to Fredericksburg, we accompanied a train of ambulances and army wagons, loaded with wounded soldiers and officers. The sufferings of these men cannot in any degree be realized. The road—an old plank road—was in a wretched condition, and the groans and shrieks of the sufferers were truly heart-rending. On this march the presence of the sanitary supplies were acknowledged by the poor men to be a god-send, inasmuch as ours were the only supplies in a train of two hundred wagons and ambulances. Crackers and stimulants, judiciously dispensed, gave relief to many suffering soldiers during that tedious march of twelve hours. We arrived at Fredericksburg at midnight, the head of the column having reached that place at noon on Sunday, and the work of transferring the wounded to the houses was commenced. A tedious and painful work was this. A former acquaintance with the town enabled me to point out the most suitable houses for hospital purposes, and among these the Planters' Hotel, containing a large number of rooms furnished with beds, &c. This proved a great advantage as a ready means of making many wounded comfortable.

The following letters from Washington explain themselves:

MR. KNAPP:

DEAR SIR:—Four boatloads of wounded men arrived during the night, viz.:

Connecticut, 1,300; Key Port, 425; Wanasett, 350; Daniel Webster, 400. Total, 2,475.

One-fourth part were severely wounded. Three hundred or more were brought ashore on stretchers. The surgeon of the Connecticut says he is deeply indebted to the Sanitary Commission for their aid and kindness. The surgeon of the Key Port says: "He does not know what he should have done had it not been for the Sanitary Commission, who furnished him with stimulants at Belle Plain for the wounded he brought up."

We gave chocolate this morning to nearly five hundred veteran soldiers of the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. They are on their way to the front.

We have distributed since last night—

5 barrels of crackers,
50 gallons of coffee,
50 gallons of chocolate,

150 gallons of lemonade,
30 gallons of milk punch.

We have fed the ambulance drivers, at the request of Mr. Tucker, Superintendent of the Ambulance Corps of Washington. Most of these drivers have been on duty, night and day, for the last four days, and I have yet to hear the first one grumble.

Mr. Stacy merits much praise for his zeal in the work of feeding and looking after the wounded men here.

Your obedient servant,

J. B. ABBOTT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Thursday, May 12.

Mr. Knapp again asks me to give you a short account of the condition of our work. The Ripley sailed again this afternoon, loaded with seventy or eighty tons of stores. Mr. Fairchild went with her, in charge of thirty volunteer nurses, including Miss Woolsey.

A barge, with eighteen horses and four large wagons, went down yesterday. Offers of assistance from all the departments are coming in all the time.

I enclose, by Mr. Knapp's direction, three letters, which will give you a good account of the work done at the front.

The wounded that have arrived thus far are but slightly injured, and are very well cared for on the boat.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed,) G. C. CALDWELL.

RELIEF AGENTS ASSIST DURING A RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

David S. Pope, Relief Agent, in his account of a trip to Washington with the surplus furniture, &c., of the Sanitary Station, which was broken up at Brandy, on the moving forward of the army, says:

"About six o'clock next morning, a train passed us at almost lightning speed, and then came a crash. We looked out of the car, and saw the wreck of five or six cars heaped up alongside of the track just a few feet beyond us, and soldiers crawling out from under the ruins. Mr. Marsh, Mr. Duboscq, and myself went up, and aided in removing the wounded, six or seven of whom were very seriously injured; one of them, more than likely, died before he reached Alexandria; another will have to suffer amputation of his leg, which was fearfully crushed.

"We were the fortunate instruments of alleviating their sufferings to a great extent. Although a surgeon was present, he was unable to do much, his stores and instruments having passed, his regiment being on the move. With our stimulants, mattresses, coats and blankets, we made the poor fellows comparatively comfortable, but they were probably without surgical attendance until they reached Alexandria."

HOSPITAL CLOTHING.

✂—The length of lower line of the diagram giving the pattern of flannel drawers, in No. 13, was omitted. It should have been marked 18 inches.

THE HOSPITALS AT WASHINGTON.

The quarterly report of Mr. Caldwell, one of our Hospital Visitors in Washington, contains some valuable hints for our branches of supply. He says:

Sir—During the quarter ending with this date, (March 31st,) I have made nearly three hundred visits in the General, Post and Regimental Hospitals in this Department.

In March, the two hospitals at Annapolis and one at Annapolis Junction, were added to my list, it seeming to be desirable that such important points as those should be regularly visited by some one from Washington, whence their supplies were drawn.

At no time during the quarter has the number of patients in the hospitals in the Department at Washington been large, and the proportion of quite sick, or bed fast, such as are usually most in need of the assistance furnished by the Commission, has been all the time very small; consequently, the issues to these hospitals have been small.

The two hospitals at Annapolis have been partially filled with the sick among the released prisoners, and have needed more aid than those in Washington and Alexandria; even these have twice received all the sick from the Army of the Potomac.

On my first visit to Annapolis I found one of the hospitals very much in need of delicacies, and a liberal order was made out; in the other, I was much pleased with the admirably arranged storeroom well stocked with most of the Commission supplies; and a large invoice was daily expected from Washington, of such things as were wanting.

The regiments garrisoning the defences of Washington, have received a large number of new recruits; and their sick lists have been larger in proportion; and consequently the issues to them have been larger in like proportion.

Most of the hospitals depend upon the Commission for their supply of brandy; surgeons in charge understand that they cannot get it from the Medical Purveyor. The issue of this precious article has, however, been small, and very carefully made. Cherry cordial and blackberry brandy are much esteemed wherever they have been introduced; there should be a good supply of these stimulants on hand for issue in the summer, when the complaints for which they contribute so serviceable a remedy, are most prevalent.

In all cases where brandy is called for, I endeavor to substitute wine therefor, and with various success. Some surgeons like it quite as well, while others can make but little use of it.

Dried apples, pickles and porter, have

been issued to some hospitals when the funds were low.

The pickles are always very acceptable, and their quality is very highly praised; they are usually much better than those obtained in the market or from the Commissary.

A few cases of peaches that happened to come this way, were most highly prized, being far better than any that could be bought here; they were issued only where I felt sure they would be well used.

Domestic wines are but little used. Their quality and strength are too uncertain, and they cannot be depended upon.

The Boston crackers are very much valued, and the issue of them is quite constant.

There is a constant call for white sugar; it is so fitly used in many cases in the cook room, where the low diet is prepared, for dishes that would be half spoiled by the brown sugar of the Commissary.

Lemons and dried beef are often asked for.

Of assorted dried fruits, there is always too little in store; a good cook can with these, make very good substitutes for jelly; and, considering the sad waste of this article in the course of transportation, the people at home, the Commission, and the soldier, would all be gainers, if the fruit were dried, instead of being converted into jelly. Then there would be no waste, and far less difficulty and labor in packing and transportation. Would it not be well to recommend this change to the branches?

At my suggestion, a small supply of yarn has been put in store for issue for mending socks; those issued by Government are of an inferior quality, and need much mending. Quite as necessary as yarn is cotton thread, for repairing cotton garments; the calls for it are frequent, and I should be glad to be able to give it.

Woolen underclothing has not been issued largely. The wool shirts issued by Government are often half cotton, and very rough and harsh; some men who need woollens cannot wear them.

For such cases, when the men have not the means to buy for themselves, or have families to whom they have to send their spare earnings, I allow to be given freely.

Pillow cases are often called for, and I supply but a small portion of the demand, for the reason that they are furnished to a certain extent by the Government.

But the Government supply is based upon but one pillow to a man; of those small pillows, two or three are hardly enough for common comfort. Moreover, the Government arrangement for condemning worn out hospital clothing is not prompt and sufficient; and a hospital sometimes has to wait six or nine months before it can have such clothing put aside as unfit for use; and

till then, it can ask for no more to take its place.

Of towels and handkerchiefs, the issue has been constant; a great many are given to the men for their own property.

The slippers supplied by Government are, like our own, cloth or carpet ones, of very little use to a man who is about on his feet; they are soon worn out.

The attendants have to move about in their heavy shoes, and have not usually much time to spend in walking on tip-toe; the noise they cannot but make, must be an annoyance to sick men, if not positively harmful. I wish there might be a supply of good leather soled slippers on hand, to be used for that purpose only. They would not be needed in every hospital, since in some a strip of matting is put down where the attendants walk.

I am often asked why these things are not bought with the hospital fund. They cannot be to the extent that is desirable, for two reasons:

1st. Surgeons are prohibited from purchasing any thing but eatables, and a few articles of a perishable nature, with the hospital fund.

2d. At the present high rates of provisions, it requires the best of management to get for the men all that the Surgeon-General's diet table requires, and all that the men ought to have of the staple articles of food.

Under such circumstances, a small quantity of good things placed in the hands of women nurses, or Sisters of Charity, serves to make many a meal more palatable and strengthening.

I frequently receive testimonials to the efficiency of the service of the Commission, which it would be out of place to repeat here.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. CALDWELL,
Hospital Visitor Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Stephen Barker writes us:

Having already explained my way of making acquaintance with officers and patients in hospitals, I need only say that my last month's work has in no way differed from that of previous months.

I have received more expressions of gratitude than formerly; but I attribute this entirely to the fact of having transacted all my hospital business in the wards, where the patients could hear the conversations between the ward master, or cook, or hospital steward and myself, concerning the wants of the hospital and the sanitary stores. Patients manifest great interest in these subjects; and when I sit down to make out my order for supplies, they cluster round as if this part of my business were one of their chief entertainments. In this way the patients seem to have realized, for the first time, where the delicacies come from which

they enjoy so much, and which they have hitherto carelessly attributed either to the kindness of private individuals, or to the agents of the Christian Commission, or to their regular medical supplies. I have been made to realize this fact, by being so often obliged to disclaim the *personal* thanks, which really belonged to the Sanitary Commission.

Lately, every visit has brought me some pleasant expression of thanks for comforts received. Sometimes by tearful silence; sometimes by a hearty outburst that the "Sanitary Commission is the greatest institution in the United States." My last was a slip of paper, tucked into the thumb of my glove, with a "God bless you," which means some thing from a "Down Easter," who wrote it.

In order to bring the benefits of the Sanitary Commission before a larger circle than hospitals afford, I have lately begun to distribute papers, magazines, and comfort bags in camps.

The supply of newspapers, in large quantities, has been furnished by contributions from Vice President Hamlin, and by Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Alex. H. Rice, and Hon. Oakes Ames.

Mrs. Hamlin and Mrs. O. Ames have also assisted me in the distribution of these favors.

One very pleasant scene occurred at Camp Barry, in the distribution of comfort bags at the barracks of the 9th and 11th Mass. Batt-ries, under Capt. Jones. By previous programme, my friend and I, with the ward master and driver, had each a box at our feet, containing a hundred bags apiece, with some papers and magazines. The men were all out (playing) kicking football. I said, "Here, boys, are some gifts for you, from Massachusetts girls," accompanying the words with a salute of bags, needlebooks, and pin-cushions, from all sides of the wagon, into the crowd. The men immediately took the joke, and, with a shout, rushed towards us, while we kept up the fire, and they rushed, and scrambled, and clutched at the flying gifts, like children after sugar-plums on a Thanksgiving eve. When at last the boxes were all emptied, and *one red sugar-plum* was all I had to put into the fifty outstretched hands around us, the captain appeared, and thanked us, in behalf of his men, for our visit, not only for its immediate benefits, but for affording pleasant memories, and material for letters for weeks to come. Here again I had the pleasure of disclaiming all personal thanks, and turning them over to the Sanitary Commission, where they rightfully belong. He said more pleasant things, and ended by proposing three cheers for Massachusetts ladies, which the soldiers gave with swinging hats, and prolonged into three times three for the pleasure of using their lungs once more in

good old Massachusetts fashion. In my last visit to Camp Barry, I learned that most of those bags contained letters, which have been answered by the soldiers, which have also been answered by the original writers. I could distribute ten thousand bags in this way, to good advantage. I regret to say I have exhausted our supply.

Mr. Brown reports as the result of his labors for the month of March in the matter of back pay for soldiers in the hospitals of Washington and vicinity:

Whole number of cases taken during the month	96
Number of cases completed by securing pay	95
" " otherwise completed	24
Total number of completed cases	129
Number of letters written during the month	218
Amount represented by the ninety-six completed cases	\$5,907.58

This is an average of nearly five months' pay for every successful case.

You will perceive that the completed cases are in excess of the number of cases taken. The present being a non-muster month, I have taken less new cases than I otherwise should, and devoted my time to a large number of complicated cases lying over from last month. The result is that we now have a less number of uncompleted cases on hand than we have had at the writing of any previous report, being now only fifty-four in number.

The work of the past month has been of a more complicated character than any previous one. Many of the hospitals in Washington have arrangements with the Pay Department for fixing up the accounts of the men, and as a consequence our services are not needed, except in such cases as are not easily traced on the regiment rolls, or which require evidence which is not on file at the Pay Department. It is the usual custom of the Paymaster General's Office to refer cases of this character to this office.

We have had quite a large number of cases the past month where the men were charged wrongfully with "desertion," and have succeeded in most instances in getting the charge removed, and in securing the men their rightful dues. One man of this class I secured *twenty months'* back pay for, after he had been to a great amount of trouble to get it through other sources, without success. Have had several cases where the men had 18 months due, all of whom were wrongfully charged with desertion.

To one unacquainted with the manner in which the accounts of the Government are kept, it seems strange that men who are serving their country for the pittance of \$13.00 per month, should be compelled to wait so long for their pay.

The fact is not to be disguised that this state of affairs is often the result of the ignorance or indifference of officers, who are paid, and well paid, for attending to this

business. A short time ago a Paymaster showed me a company roll bearing sixty-seven names. Out of that sixty-seven only four could be paid, the other sixty-three being incorrectly mustered by the commanding officer. These men must now wait two months longer, not only for the last two months' pay due, but also for all that was previously due, and the next muster may find them in as bad condition as they now are. It frequently happens that a man is taken prisoner, and on his next subsequent rolls charged with desertion, which has the effect of stopping all pay that is due or that may become due, till the charge is removed.

Not one soldier in a thousand is acquainted with the method of removal, and consequently many innocent men suffer in their reputation, as well as lose their pay; for, according to military law, the charge of desertion is *prima facie* evidence that the man did desert.

The preliminary steps have been taken for extending this work to Baltimore and Philadelphia, and I would suggest that New York be included in this arrangement. There has been no way heretofore for men without description lists to get their back pay, if they have been outside of Washington. The new arrangement will be a great advantage to this class of men.

The bulk of the work will have to be done through this office. All that is required for cities outside of Washington, is some one to look up the cases at the hospitals, which is comparatively little work. Mr. Ashman, of Philadelphia, has sent us on some cases, and promises to send more soon. I went to Baltimore yesterday, to make the arrangements for starting the work in that city.

Saw Dr. Bliss, the surgeon in charge of the Camden Street Hospital; also, Rev. Mr. Bower, the chaplain. They seemed willing to do every thing in their power to co-operate in the work. I find that nearly all the men have description lists, and that they are mustered on there without any further evidence; therefore the number who will require assistance there will be smaller than here, in proportion to the number of patients.

RESULTS OF THE FAIR.

I take the liberty of sending to you for publication in your journal the following:

At a meeting of the Ladies' Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, held May 13, 1864, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That John H. Goullie, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, be requested to place one million dollars in the hands of the United States Sanitary Commission.

By order of the Board.
(Signed,) CATHERINE C. HUNT.

In accordance with the above resolution, I have handed over to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer of the United States Sanitary Commission, the above-named sum of one million dollars. The following is a copy of his receipt for the same:

NEW YORK, May 17, 1864.

Received from John H. Goullie, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, one million dollars, for the benefit of the United States Sanitary Commission.

(Signed,)

GEORGE T. STRONG,

\$1,000,000. Treasurer of the Sanitary Commission.

I take the liberty of stating, for public information, that the above-named amount is the first instalment of the results of the Metropolitan Fair. Its financial affairs cannot be completely closed for some time to come, as contributions known to have been made have not yet been sent into the Treasurer's Department; besides, there are other contributions, still on their way from Europe, (a cargo of coal, valued at \$12,500, the generous gift of Geo. Elliott, of Liverpool,) and paintings, and works of art, still unsold, the probable value of which is \$20,000.

A detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements will be made as soon as practicable.

I congratulate the public on the noble results of their generous contributions to the Metropolitan Fair.

The receipts over and above all expenses will not, I venture to say, fall far short of \$1,100,000; still, all sums over one million at present can only be roughly estimated.

A committee are now engaged in examining the accounts of the Treasury Department, and I trust that their report will be satisfactory to the public.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. GOULLIE,

Chairman Finance Committee, Metropolitan Fair.

NEW YORK, May 17, 1864.

GENERAL SURVEY OF OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1st, 1864.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary, U. S. San. Com.

SIR—I submit, as Associate Secretary for the East, the following report. It embraces the time from January 1st to present date.

The monthly reports sent to you, with the frequent letters forwarded, have already furnished to you all the detail of what I

now simply present as a summary of the whole.

During these four months there has been no essential change in the *methods* adopted, the *character* of the demands, the *ability* to meet all claims, and the *working force* itself.

There has been a constant *tendency* to *enlargement*, both in the Field Relief Corps and in the Special Relief Department.

At Washington and vicinity, the long existing systematic provision for rendering aid to general and regimental hospitals has continued. There has in that section been no important movements in the field. Here, however, as elsewhere, large provision has been made to meet the demands which may arise from great battles. (Accompanying are papers of stock with Army of the Potomac, stock sent to Norfolk, stock sent to Harper's Ferry, stock in storehouse at Washington and on the way, as by invoice.)

Accompanying, also, is report of Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector of Army of Potomac, covering the months of January, February, and March.

Thus, at Washington; at Newbern, N. C.; at Olustee, Florida; in Texas, and at Grand Ecure, Louisiana, during this same period, the Commission has had large opportunity to show its preparation to meet urgent needs, and its ability to render efficient help in emergencies.

In each instance its preparations were larger than the needs, and its help followed close upon the emergencies.

You have herewith, or previously forwarded to you, the reports from these several sections.

These reports indicate, also, efficiency and earnest zeal on the part of all the agents of the Commission employed in their respective fields; and their labors have been recognized and appreciated by the officers and military authorities, as well as by the men receiving "aid and comfort."

The amounts of supplies with the army; value of the same; issues to the depots at Washington, Newbern, Hilton Head, (from which the Florida supplies were sent,) and New Orleans, for the quarter ending April 1st, accompany this. Marked valuation, \$117,683.50.

At Newbern, N. C., at the present time,

preparation is made, by two additional relief agents recently sent, and a large invoice of stores, to meet the probably large demands which may soon arise there.

At Hilton Head and Beaufort, the present demand is comparatively limited, with diminished forces.

At New Orleans and beyond, the working force of the Commission has been increased by efficient men, some sent from the North, some found there; and stores are constantly forwarded by almost every steamer. The right granted to the Chief Inspector to purchase in New Orleans, when necessary to meet emergencies, (a right which he has judiciously exercised,) adds to the efficiency and real stock there of the Commission.

Homes or Lodges have followed the army in Louisiana and Texas whenever it has moved, or else been ready to meet returning men sick or discharged. These Lodges have all done a valuable work. When the army left a given region, rendering a Lodge further unnecessary at that point, the same men and material constituting this station have been moved on and planted elsewhere, as the need required.

The permanent Home at New Orleans is doing a very large and very beneficent work. It has every aid from the military authorities there which can be asked for. Reports submitted.

The "Pension and Claim Agency" at New Orleans is full of work, and recognized by officers and public men as meeting a large and long-existing need.

The agents in charge have proved competent and faithful. Reports submitted.

Arrangements were made for establishing a Home at Hilton Head, (this special relief work hitherto having been performed under great disadvantages,) but the recent removal of heavy forces from the department has deferred for the present the execution of the plan.

At Washington, Alexandria, Annapolis, Convalescent Camp, Camp Parole, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston, the special relief work of the Commission has continued much as heretofore, with these exceptions, viz.:

ALEXANDRIA.

At Alexandria increasing demands have called for increased accommodations.

CAMP PAROLE.

At Camp Parole new portable houses have been put up for the relief agents and for a storehouse. In connection with this station we have also a carpenter's shop, with suitable tools, where many of the invalids find amusement and occupation. A garden is also started here.

PHILADELPHIA.

At Philadelphia the special relief work is under Col. Soert, (formerly relief agent in the Army of the Potomac,) who has been appointed and whose labors are wisely directed by the Philadelphia Branch. Col. Soert, as I understand, is doing a very valuable work—similar in general terms to the work undertaken at Lodge No. 4 in Washington.

BOSTON.

From Boston a report has been received, which is herewith submitted. It shows continued earnestness, wise and efficient action, joined to the most carefully elaborated and perfect system, which has yet been seen in any section of the Commission's work.

PORTLAND, ME.

A Home or Lodge has been established at Portland, Me., where none existed before. It does good service.

PORTSMOUTH, VA.

A new Lodge has also been opened within three months at Portsmouth, Va., with large facilities and corresponding opportunities for usefulness. Report appended.

The "Agency for Fresh Hospital Supply Purchases" has been discontinued. During its continuance, the advantages which had been secured to the Hospitals were evident and real. The Medical Director estimated that ten per cent. of their entire Hospital Fund had been saved to the Hospitals by this Agency.

"CANVASSING AGENTS."

Of Canvassing Agents, there are in the East, as follows:

- Dr. Parish, with a wide field.
- Dr. Van Ingen, in Northern New York.
- Mr. Hadly, in Maine.
- Rev. Mr. Tuttle, in New Jersey.
- Mr. Rathbun, in Western Pennsylvania.
- Mr. Ball, in Massachusetts.
- Major Bush, in Western New York.

Besides these, there are some persons, mostly women, employed by the various "Branch Societies," as at Philadelphia and Boston.

The theory is, for these agents above named, to receive their appointment and assignment to duty from this office, but their special instructions from the managers of that branch of the Commission whose supervision covers the special field to which the Agent is assigned.

It is believed that the work of these Agents has been productive of good, both in imparting information and correcting prejudices, and also in stimulating supplies.

The reports of Dr. Parish and of Dr. Van Ingen accompany this.

I wish to suggest the importance of adding to the Agents thus engaged, and, perhaps, to systematize the work more fully, by placing the responsibility of its conduct upon one person, who shall also be a lecturer, but whose duty it will be to keep informed of the condition and demands of the field.

Yours respectfully,

F. N. KNAFF,
Associate Secretary.

THE COMMISSION ON THE RED RIVER.

Dr. Crane writes from New Orleans, April 21st:

In my letter to you of the 15th, I furnished you with a general summary of our recent work up to that date. We have subsequently continued our operations upon pretty much the same scale.

Five invoices of stores have been sent forward to Mr. Mitchell since the 15th. They will average about fifty boxes and barrels each.

I proposed forwarding to you by this mail complete lists of these shipments. But copies are not made, or if made, cannot be found this morning. We have now sent to the front most of our stock on hand in this city. I shall reserve the balance, issuing more sparingly, particularly such stores as cannot be replaced, except from the North. Indeed, I think that the necessities resulting from the late engagements have already, for the most part, been supplied either through the ordinary channels, or by the recent efforts of the Commission.

I am happy in being able to inform you, that Dr. Sheldon, Acting Medical Director here, has succeeded finally in obtaining for

the Quartermaster's Department, a few thousand dollars of that hospital tax fund, which now amounts in this Department to more than a quarter of a million of dollars—and of which, I shall have something to say some day.

With this assistance, Dr. S. has been able to make purchases of fruit, milk, stimulants, which will probably obviate the necessity of our purchasing largely hereafter, especially as Dr. Sheldon, has not only engaged heartily in this work, but has exhibited towards the Commission the most liberal and generous feeling.

I hear from the army the most glowing accounts of our good work. Stevens is securing golden opinions; Barnard is splendid, and Edgerly the subject of almost unmeasurable praise. But it is quite invidious to mention a few names when our whole force has worked most untiringly, and every man has tried at least to do his duty.

In my letter of the 15th, I alluded to the interest taken by Mayor Hoyt in our Commission.

I forward to you a copy of a letter written to him on the following day; it may prove of interest as a part of the history of recent events.

Mr. Baker, of the "Varieties," informs me that the result of the benefit given me in our behalf on Monday evening last, was much less satisfactory than he expected, but that he has succeeded very well with the subscription list opened at the office of the theatre. He thinks that he will be able on Monday to place in my hands (\$2,000) two thousand dollars, as the result of this effort in behalf of the Commission.

I make a requisition on Mr. Collins by this mail, for a new and large supply of stores.

When the hurry has passed, I will endeavor to furnish Mr. Knapp with some sort of a general sketch of our work.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, }
NEW ORLEANS, April 10, 1864. }

STEPHEN HOYT, Captain U. S. Army,
Acting Mayor of New Orleans:

DEAR SIR—I am sorry that I have been unable to comply with your request at an earlier hour. I have the pleasure, however, of now forwarding to you the enclosed list of stores issued from the depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in this city, and shipped to Alexandria, for the use of the sick and wounded in our armies during the present campaign.

50 Woolen Shirts,	7 kegs Pickles,
100 Canton Flannel Shirts,	13 jars do.
250 Cotton do.	296 barrels Vegetables and
420 Hospital do.	Pickles,
100 pair Woolen Drawers,	15 do. do.
217 pair Canton Fl. Drawers,	2 bbls. Potatoes,
200 pair Cotton Drawers,	6 do. Cabbage in cur-
317 Woolen Socks,	rie,
112 Wrappers,	1 bbl. Dried Fruit,
140 pair Slippers,	1 box do.
360 Sheets,	41 cans Fruit,

100 Blankets,	2 bbls. Dried Apples,
88 Bed Sacks,	32 do. Crackers,
105 Pillows,	105 lbs. Barley,
91 Quilts,	200 do. Corn Starch,
250 Towels,	98 do. Farina,
292 Cushions,	500 do. Soft Bread,
1 bbl. Cotton pieces,	15 do. Arrow Root,
2 bbls. Lint,	48 do. Beefstock,
2 bbls. Bandages,	3 Sugar-cured Hams,
1 bbl. Bags,	7 boxes Cabbage,
6 bbls. Lint and Bandages,	1 bbl. Eggs,
25 Flannel Bandages,	48 cans Tomatoes,
20 yds. Oil Silk,	150 lbs. Chocolate,
4 yds. Rubber Cloth,	30 do. Cocoa,
50 Mosquito Bars,	861 do. Cond. Milk,
10 pieces Mosquito Netting,	2 kegs Butter,
500 Fans,	3 bbls. White Sugar,
20 Sick Feeders (Medicine	1 bbl. Sugar,
Cups),	72 boxes Lemonade,
18 Catheters,	30 cases Lemons,
73 Sponges,	1,000 lbs. Ice,
2 Bed Pans,	10 lbs. Soap,
20 Tin Basins,	15 do. Chloroform,
18 Lanterns,	12 bottles Chlorate Soda,
1 Urinal,	15 do. Red Pepper,
4 Tin Buckets,	61 lbs. Tobacco (chew'g.),
1 Water do.	50 do. (smok'g.),
124 Tin Cups,	1 gross Pipes,
20 lbs. Nails,	1/2 Ream Letter Paper,
48 bottles Brandy,	650 Sheets do.
5 gallons do.	1,250 Envelopes,
48 bottles Sherry,	2 bottles Ink,
54 do. Whisky,	1 gross Pens,
71/2 gallons do.	2 boxes Binding Matter,
24 bottles Domestic Wine,	Tin Basins, Towels,
16 Cases Cereal,	Condensed Coffee, and many
50 gallons do.	other articles, of which Mr.
3 bbls. Ale,	Grant has the list.
36 bottles Bay Rum,	

Additional stores were placed on the Laurel Hill, to be issued on the boat, by one of the agents well acquainted with the hospital transport service, who will return with the wounded she may bring to this city.

Thus much has already been done. More still remains to be done.

Two greatest necessities which it is our mission and duty to meet, will probably arise from a want of sufficient hospital clothing, as also from a want of proper hospital food.

Of clothing, we have now on hand a very good stock, blankets and bed-sacks excepted, which we are expecting to receive from a ship now many days due.

Our supplies of hospital food and delicacies have been relatively smaller; sufficient to meet ordinary demands, but quite insufficient for an emergency like the present.

I, therefore, was compelled immediately I heard of the necessities of our hospital service, to make purchases in this city of some lemons, milk, ice, &c., to the amount of seven hundred dollars. Most of these articles have already been sent to the front.

With reference to the future, I intend to repeat my recent purchases, and send forward sanitary supplies on every available boat, so long as the want, suffering and wretchedness, consequent upon the late engagements may continue to claim our aid and succor.

It is impossible for me at the present moment, to say precisely what amount of money it may be necessary to expend. Two thousand dollars may be sufficient—it may

not be; no definite exact statements of either the number or condition of the wounded have as yet reached me.

I have received several communications, the last dated at Alexandria, on the 13th instant, from our agents—six or seven of whom are now either at Alexandria, or with the army beyond. From these despatches I infer that there is little danger of our overdoing for many days to come—the substance of them is, provide everything for 2,500 wounded men.

I shall, so far as possible, make my issues continuously, believing that any efforts we may make, well and judiciously sustained, are much more likely to accomplish the greatest good, than a hundred attempts to do every thing at once. I have made arrangements for sending a ton of ice to the front every day, if possible.

I shall have a large shipment ready for the next boat, which will leave to-morrow or next day—a trusty agent will go with them.

In conclusion, I can only return to you, sir, in behalf of the Commission, my most sincere thanks for the aid which you have so promptly and so generously extended to me.

Yours, very respectfully,

EDWARD A. CRANE,

Agent of the U. S. San. Com.,
Department of the Gulf.

Mr. Barnard writes from Alexandria, April 13:

My visit to the army has been attended with much to depress and distress the mind of one anxious for his country's welfare.

Nothing of moment transpired on the way up. We expected, and were somewhat disappointed in not meeting with some opposition from the Bushwhackers, at the many dark and woody points that favored an ambush.

We felt prepared for them, as we had a full complement of ready-loaded muskets, besides our guard. There were on board some twenty saddlers and their clerks, all ready to show their marksmanship. The monotony was broken by shooting at the numerous alligators that line the banks, many of them being of vast size.

On Monday morning, the hospital boat, Laurel Hill, was ordered to prepare to receive the wounded. I delivered a portion of the sanitary stores taken up to Mr. Stevens, reserving the balance for use on the Laurel Hill. I went on shore, and assisted Mr. Stevens to distribute the supplies to the different hospitals; visited his camp; was shown under what disadvantages he labored in transporting goods to the army.

Mr. Stevens is the right man in the right place. He enjoys the confidence of the

officers, and receives every attention, and particularly from the quartermaster. He could afford much more relief had he the supplies necessary.

About ten o'clock, the mournful ambulances, with their living, DYING contents, darkened the road leading to the boat, who were transferred, some in stretchers; others hopping on one foot, sustained by two men; this one carried in the arms of friends; that one hobbling along on two sticks, picked up for the occasion, that answered for crutches. Some walked on board, without help, with mutilated arms, hands, head, neck, nose, ear, mouth, breast and eye.

The temporary berths in the middle of the hall were first filled, then the state rooms, then the floors, afterwards the spaces on the outside of the cabin—the ladies' cabin was occupied for General Remson and another wounded officer—the engine-room was next called into requisition; thus the entire guards, the wood racks, cock-lofts, the spaces under the wheel-houses, and finally the Texas hall and sky-light decks were required to hold the 500 mingled beings who were seeking to escape death's door, by a passage on the Laurel Hill—numbers of whom were without blanket, without coat, without baggage, and almost *sans cubito*, sans every thing, having left them for the benefit of the rebels. Well, here was a field open for prompt action—"hic opus est, hic labor"—only three or four surgeons on board, minus surgical instruments, medical chests, or in fact, any appliances to make the wounded comfortable—off coat and at it, was the word. But who can describe the sufferings of these poor soldiers, most of whom had been three days without nourishment or attention, riding over a rough road of 35 miles.

We put to their parched lips cups of milk punch, wine and water, as their case demanded, and oh, what heart-felt thanks would greet our ears: "God bless you," "That is worth \$5," "How good and kind you are." When told that their friends at home had furnished these things, tears would well up, their countenances brighten, and expressions of gratitude would fall from their quivering lips. One man said: "Little did I think that when I and wife were donating our mite in Ashtabula, Ohio, that I should be one of the recipients; God bless the folks at home."

While the nurses and surgeons were dressing their wounds, we would administer hot coffee, tea and chocolate, with a Boston cracker, and with what relish would they partake! Some whose teeth were shot out were served with gruels and soups. Pickles and vinegar were freely distributed; a small piece of soap was handed with a clean towel to him who was able to help himself; this man had a pair of drawers, that one a clean shirt to replace their

bloody ones; a sweet smelling sheet was placed under this, a soft pillow or cushion under that; a warm clean blanket spread over their persons appeared to give them comfort, a comb assisted their toilet, a book or paper or pamphlet was given them to read, to beguile the lonesome hour; some asked for pen and paper to address a hasty line home, informing the folks that they were among the living.

Many of the officers, coming on board all worn down and covered with dust, after receiving a generous cup from the Sanitary, would extol in language not to be misunderstood the members and friends of our institution.

Your agent here, Mr. Edward Mitchell, stands head and shoulders over all, possessing the esteem and good will of the army and people. He chafes under a curb bit; he wants to administer free waters to all the thirst of the army.

Mr. Mitchell writes from the same place five days later:

Yours of 13th and 15th received, also stores in generous quantities and with prompt dispatch, by the Hattie Gilmore, in charge of Mr. Foote, by the Laurel Hill, in charge of Mr. Edgerly, and just now by Chateau, in charge of Philip. I thank you for responding as you have done so promptly to my requests for stores. Edgerly tells me you directed him to return with the Laurel Hill.

Most of the stores will be needed, and will be forwarded as soon as transportation can be procured to the front, with Mr. Foote in charge, to report to Mr. Stevens. Mr. Barnard I sent up on Saturday with all but a scanty supply of stores I retained here, in case of emergency; he will return as soon as possible. Dr. Alexander will tell you how opportune was the arrival there of our little supply and our agents; the army and its officials are grateful indeed for what we have done and are doing. To-day seventy-five men have been given clean underclothes; some came in with no socks, others no shirts, and yet others with no drawers on; the number at the counter threaten to break the bank before we are an hour older. No stores will come amiss here for a week to come at least.

I think that a "Rest" of some kind may become desirable in case of an advance at or beyond Grand Ecore. I would put Edgerly in charge, and let Mr. Foote report to Stevens in the field. Mr. Stevens I have not heard from since he left on the flag of trace expedition.

Mr. Edgerly says:

Agreeable to your instructions, I, on Friday the 15th instant, with stores as per invoice, left New Orleans on the hospital transport Laurel Hill, for Alexandria, at

which point we arrived on the morning of the 17th. After delivering to Mr. Reynolds the stores designed for the Home, and reserving a few supplies for the use of the sick and wounded on the Laurel Hill, I, at Mr. Mitchell's request, turned over to him the balance of the stores in my charge. After receiving on board some two hundred and fifty soldiers, sick and wounded, we, the same evening, left Alexandria for this city. Owing to the energy of Dr. McClellan, Surgeon in charge, the Laurel Hill had been well fitted out with bunks, mattresses, rations, cooking arrangements, &c., which, with the addition of Sanitary stores, furnished by the Commission, rendered the condition of patients on board, very comfortable, compared with that of those first brought to this city from the recent field of action. As, has always been the case in every transport filled with sick and wounded, we found an abundant opportunity to lend a helping hand, which we endeavored to do by the way of dressing wounds, preparing cooling drinks, and supplying many of the destitute with comfortable under clothing, for which more than one disabled soldier, with moistened eyes and faltering voice said: "God bless the dear ladies at home, and the Sanitary Commission." Arriving in this city at an early hour this morning, the wounded men were promptly removed to the hospital, and the Laurel Hill, after undergoing a thorough cleansing, will return to Alexandria for another load of our wounded veterans.

THE COMMISSION AND THE SURGEONS.

CAMP NEAR BRANDY STATION, VA., }
April 6th, 1864. }

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,
Chief Inspector, Sanitary Commission,
Army of the Potomac:

Sir—My attention has been attracted by an article in the New York *Evening Post* of the 1st inst., in which it is stated that certain general officers of this army "do not acknowledge that the Sanitary Commission has rendered any important service" in this army.

I regret much to see such an article published in an influential paper, as it does gross injustice to the Sanitary Commission, which has rendered incalculable service to this army; and any thing done to weaken the hands of its friends, is an injury to the cause of humanity.

I joined the Army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing in July, 1862, and from that time to the present, have seen food, clothing and delicacies, that could not otherwise be obtained, distributed liberally and impartially to wounded, sick, and enfeebled soldiers; and, to my certain knowledge, much suffering has been alleviated and prevented by the forethought and en-

ergy of the agents of the Sanitary Commission, in having constantly on hand, and accessible, such supplies as were most needed.

I have drawn, from the storehouses of the Commission in the army, supplies for several different regiments and hospitals during that time, and have always found the agents of the Commission in possession of such supplies as were most needed, and ready to distribute them to the suffering, whether officers or enlisted men.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. N. FREEMAN,

Surgeon 166th N. Y. Infantry.

CAMP 14TH REGT., N. J. VOL.,
1ST BRIG., 3D DIV., 6TH C. A. F.,
April 6th, 1864.

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER:

DEAR SIR—Having had my attention called to an article in the New York *Evening Post* of April 1st, 1864, regarding the efficiency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, I beg to state, that during the marches the past summer, when it has been very difficult, or even impossible, to obtain sanitary stores for the sick in ambulance trains, or even in hospitals, when established, I have never failed to obtain such stores as required by calling upon the Commission. Their supplies, always keeping with the train, were ever at hand. I will also state, that on several occasions during the past winter, I have called upon Mr. S. M. Blazier, Sanitary Agent, 3d Corps, for such articles as were required in our regimental hospital, and could not be obtained elsewhere, and have been promptly supplied.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. MARTIN,

Surgeon 14th N. J. F.

138TH REGT., PENNA. VOL.,
2D BRIG., 3D DIV., 6TH CORPS,
4th Mo. 6th, 1864.

DEAR DOCTOR—Mr. Blazier called upon me this morning, and exhibited an extract from a New York paper, which, in effect, stated that several of the prominent generals of this army have declared the Commission of no "benefit in their departments," &c. What may have been the ground for this declaration, of course I know nothing; but being connected with the department in which the Commission is mainly intended to operate—i. e., among sick and wounded—and having witnessed in so many instances its beneficial operations, I most cordially bear my testimony in its favor. Not only have I witnessed these good effects in the field, but also in general hospitals. The sick of my own regiment have frequently been assisted

from the stores of the Commission. In an enterprise of the magnitude of the Sanitary Commission, where its operations extend over so wide a field, it is not surprising that errors and irregularities should creep in; but they are of minor importance, when compared with the great good accomplished.

I am, doctor,

Your friend,

CHARLES E. CADY,

Surgeon, 138th Regt. Penn. Vol.

TO DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,
244 F Street, Washington, D. C.

The following, also, will not be out of place here, though not from a Surgeon:

HEADQUARTERS 104TH PENNA. VOL.,

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Nov. 15, 1863.

DR. MARSH,
Inspector Sanitary Commission.

SIR—I feel it a duty as well as a pleasure, to make some acknowledgment for the many favors received from your truly benevolent Commission, by the men of my command, during the operations against Charleston. Since our arrival on Morris Island, in August, the men of my command have been on duty almost continuously of the most hazardous character. The supply of vegetables received from the Commissary was totally inadequate to meet the demands. Your Commission has kindly supplied to meet the deficiencies. We have been supplied almost daily with ice, and upon the return of the men from duty in the trenches, as they clustered around the barrel for their cups of ice water, the feeling of all was, God bless the Sanitary Commission. Trusting that you may still go on with your work, and that the men in other Departments of the Army may receive like advantages,

I remain, &c.,

EDWARD L. ROGERS,

Maj. 104th Penna. Vol.,

Commanding Regiment.

REPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

Dr. Steiner reports May 1st:

Since sending in my report for the quarter ending April 1st, the operations of my department have been confined to the distribution of stores, as needs might arise, the organization of corps to meet the emergencies of the spring campaign, and the collection of supplies at local depots for subsequent use. In the bustle and confusion consequent upon preparations for active work throughout this wide field, it will be impossible to furnish a very full report. What I have to give must be more of a sketchy character than in detail. I shall divide it into three portions, corresponding with the three districts composing the department.

1. *The Upper District, Maj. Gen. F. Sigel's command, from Cumberland Eastwards.*—Our operations here were commenced by Charles C. Harris, as stated in my last report, on the 19th of March, and were afterwards somewhat more fully organized under the direction of Col. A. H. Poteu, whose previous position as one of General Sigel's officers, gave him special advantages. The fullest privileges we could ask were granted by the General commanding, and it was hoped that the labors of Col. Poteu would continue of avail to the Commission, but the health of his father, Maj. Gen. Poteu, of Hanover, Germany, requiring him to visit Germany, he resigned his position, and his resignation was accepted on the 16th of April. Col. George A. Muhleck, (formerly Col. 73d Pa. Vol.,) late attached to the 1st Army Corps, as Relief Agent, has been appointed Superintendent. Col. M., is, however, now absent, in consequence of sickness in his family, and Mr. Harris, the Acting Superintendent.

The storehouse established at Harper's Ferry is located in one of the Government buildings, which was placed at our disposal by the Commanding General, and has been kept pretty well supplied with stores from Washington. The officers of this district are exceedingly courteous, and well disposed towards the Commission. Every facility has been extended to make our work effective and useful. Mr. Roberts is the migratory agent along the railroad, and will most likely accompany the expedition of Gen. Sigel to Winchester. Mr. Harris acts as Hospital Visitor in the region around Harper's Ferry, where most of the hospitals are aggregated. These gentlemen have been only assigned to duty within the last few days, but have shown an earnestness which gives me the right to expect good work from them.

It may be well to state that Mrs. Poteu, having acted as a volunteer aid at our depot in the Ferry for some weeks, is anxious to continue in that capacity during Col. Poteu's absence from the country. If arrangements can be made to retain her services, we shall do so.

2. *The Middle District—Army of the Potomac—Field Relief Corps.*—Some slight changes have been made in this corps since my last report. Charles S. Bell's was transferred on the 21st of April to the E. Va. Corps. Seth Howell was appointed Relief Agent on the 19th ultimo, and William B. Marsh on the 24th. Mr. Johnson returned to duty on the 20th, and resumed his position as Superintendent.

In addition to their ordinary duties of visiting regiments, the Relief Agents have been actively engaged in getting wagons and teams ready for the approaching campaign. In this work Captain Harris has

been laboring with his usual zeal and fidelity. Five wagons, stout, strong and substantial, with good four-horse teams, and well supplied with assorted supplies, are now with the army on the march. The two superintendents accompany them, and will lend assistance wherever it may be needed in the work. Great care has been taken to make the Sanitary outfit of such a character as will enable the agents to supplement the stores which the Medical Department take with them. The medical stores carried by the army in the present campaign exceed by far those carried in previous campaigns. These are so liberal in the 6th Corps, that its Medical Director, Dr. Holman, declined giving his consent or permission for a Sanitary wagon in his hospital train. He claims that he has stores sufficiently large to supply five thousand men for five days. Should he succeed in providing for the wants of his wounded without extra assistance, he will have acquired a reputation of which any Medical Director might be proud; should he fail, the country will not be likely to overlook his disregard of that assistance which was freely offered him. It is well to add, that I have been informed that all the medical officers of the 3d Division, 6th Corps, have entered an urgent application, approved by Gen. Ricketts, that a Sanitary wagon might accompany them.

The breaking up of our station, familiarly called the "Shedberg," by the Field Relief Corps, at Brandy, closes a four months of good honest work by this Corps,—of work which has brought the comforts of our stores to hundreds and thousands of the sick and suffering; the advantages of a lodge and resting place to over a thousand way-worn and exhausted soldiers and their friends, and a place of resort for all who wished help and assistance, in addition to that furnished by the regular army supplies. There is a historic interest about the old house, which formed the centre of our quarters, that will make it of special attraction hereafter to those who have derived benefit therefrom, as well as to the laborers who have faithfully worked under directions, and with stores issued from it.

With the view of meeting the wants of a large battle, on the 15th of April last I prepared a list of articles presumed to be necessary, on the basis of ten thousand wounded. I suggested that these stores should be held in depot, subject alone to orders for the coming exigency. The Associate Secretary, with great promptness and readiness, forwarded a requisition for the same, and I am pleased to know that we have the materials in the storehouses with which relief can be brought to the needy and suffering. The only problem to be solved is, "How shall transportation be secured to the point where the need exists?" Should the battle take place within reach of car transporta-

tion, we have the assurance, freely given, of the Provost Marshal General of the Army of the Potomac, that a car, or cars, will be placed at our disposal. Should the new base of supplies be on the water, it will be absolutely necessary that we have a boat at our disposal, so as to allow us independent means of transportation. This subject deserves the most careful study and prompt action, if the conclusion be arrived at to procure a boat. It may be well to state, that the indications now justify the opinion that the railroad will be deserted. It is true that some three hundred empty cars have been sent to the front,—these may be intended to bring in to Washington the wounded and prisoners from the first engagement, or to transport a portion of a corps. In any case, it is evident that the intention of the military authorities is not to retain the wounded in the field, but to transport to Washington as speedily as possible.

Notwithstanding the views contained in the preceding paragraph, I have deemed it well that a corps of ready and, to a certain extent, trained workers should be formed, whose duties should be to take charge, so long as supplementary assistance is needed on any field, of the sanitary work. It is proposed that they, under a proper superintendent, should subordinate all their work to the wishes and orders of medical officers, and their duties are expressly stated to be non-interference with, but aid to the latter in affording relief and comfort to the suffering. After due consultation with the Associate Secretary, and an expression of approval, the Hon. Frank B. Fay, of Chelsea, Mass., whose name has almost been the synonyme for honest, conscientious, loving care of our sick and wounded in the hospitals, after all our large battles in the East, was appointed. The Auxiliary Relief Corps will consist of some volunteers, who have engaged to give up the comforts of home and family for this grand work of charity, and twenty-four theological students from Princeton and New York, who have applied for position in the same; believing that it was a duty peculiarly fitting for those who have the holy ministry in view, to administer to the needy, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and smooth the pillow for the dying.

Mr. Fay is here now, and has entered upon the duties of fitting his corps for the field with an alacrity and zeal that demonstrates the fact that he is the man for the place, and his corps show a spirit that satisfies us their enlistment in the cause will redound to the benefit of the Commission and the good of the soldier. He is meeting them at stated hours during the day, and imparting, from the rich stores of his own personal experience, such instructions as will divest them of the igno-

rance which marks all new men endeavoring to act as nurses.

With these two corps, the Field Relief Corps—moving with the army, the Auxiliary Relief Corps—ready to do work whenever the emergency demands it, and as soon as the field of its operations can be reached,—with a vast accumulation of stores at our depots ready for use,—with the securing of such transportation as may be practicable or attainable,—the Commission may safely say it has left no stone unturned to make the way open for the full performance of its duty. Whatever be the result, the Chief Inspector feels that all efforts will have been made, as far as human judgment can aid, to be prepared for the emergency. God grant us the means of doing all He has put it in our hearts to do for our suffering soldiers!

3. *The Lower District.*—Major General B. F. Butler's Command.—Mr. R. Cecil Nevin has fitted himself for his duties as relief agent, in charge of the department of Norfolk, with commendable alacrity and promptness. His reports—dated April 9, 16, 23 and 30—show an increasing fitness for, and execution of, the duties assigned him. The Norfolk Relief Corps at present consists of three gentlemen.

The amount of stores kept in stock here has been largely increased of late, in order to meet the wants of an army which has been collecting for some time past at or near Yorktown, on the Peninsula. Finding, some two weeks since, that it would be necessary to have a separate organization with this army, I proceeded to organize the Peninsula Relief Corps. This, with various changes and modifications required by the demands of this army, consists at present of ten gentlemen.

Some of these are on the field, and the others are on their way thither. An order, dated May 4, separates this district from my department, and places it under the supervision of Dr. A. McDonald, Sanitary Inspector. I part with it with great regret, as, under much difficulty, a systematic organization of the Norfolk work had been effected during the past winter, and a similar result was being attained for the Peninsula Corps; but the selection of Dr. McDonald as the immediate chief inspector on the ground, will ensure the greatest possible success to the work of the Commission, and will enable him to carry out his own noble and earnest desire to aid the hearts' desires of the people of our great nation.

Issues made by the Field Relief Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the months of January, February and March, 1864:

1,044 Bed Ticks,
131 Caplins,
1,378 Pillows,
2,492 Pillow Cases,
716 Pillow Ticks,
733 Quilts,

463 Cotton Socks, pairs,
3,454 Woollen socks, pairs
324 bottles Brandy,
3,609 lbs. Cond'd milk,
1,206 lbs. Corn Starch,
1,296 lbs. Farina,

1,388 Sheets,
462 Spoons,
2,370 Towels,
350 Tin Pans,
5,092 Wooden Drawers,
1,162 Handkerchiefs,
1,770 Mittens,
3,158 Wooden Shirts,
1,125 Slippers, pairs,

697 bottles Jellys & Preserves,
100 lbs. Salt Fish,
600 lbs. Sugar,
400 bot. Foreign Wine,
400 bot. Wines & Brandy,
1,804 Needle Books,
154 lbs. Soap,
1,500 Envelopes.

Issues made from storehouse of U. S. Sanitary Commission to troops from Cumberland, Md., eastwards to Monroeville, during months of January, February, and March, 1864:

254 Wooden Shirts,
278 Drawers,
273 Pillows,
138 lbs. Chocolate,
160 lbs. Corn Starch,
240 cans Beef Stock,
200 lbs. Oatmeal,
231 lbs. Sugar,
520 Bedticks,
116 Blankets,
170 Cushions,
209 Pillow Cases,
160 " Ticks,
529 Towels,

374 Cotton Drawers,
324 " Shirts,
142 Slippers,
286 Wooden Socks,
25 lbs. Arrowroot,
344 Needle Cases,
100 Tin Plates,
77 Sheets,
74 Cans Tomatoes,
2,750 Envelopes,
108 cans Milk,
300 Handkerchiefs,
100 Eye Shades,
192 blis. Farina.

Issues made from storehouse at Norfolk, Va., during months of January, February, and March, 1864:

367 Wooden Shirts,
619 " Drawers,
144 bottles Brandy,
228 lbs. Farina,
88 jars Jelly,
120 gals. Pickles,
72 bottles Jam, Rum,
186 " Wine, for'n,
442 lbs. Sugar,
250 Bedticks,
460 Pillow Cases,
432 Slippers,
935 Wooden Socks,

72 bottles Bay Rum,
100 Quills,
69 bottles Cologne,
2,376 sheets Note Paper,
197 cans Beef Stock,
200 Tin Cups,
300 Shirts,
2,500 Envelopes,
240 cans Milk,
50 Gamses,
12 bottles Spirits Camp'r,
100 Tin Basins.

A variety of articles issued in smaller quantities are omitted from the above list.

THE HOSPITALS AND SANITARY STATIONS IN TENNESSEE.

Dr. Read gives the following account of a tour of inspection he has just made:

Soon after my last report I left Nashville for the purpose of visiting the different posts of the Commission in this department, and the hospitals and camps in their vicinity, that I might learn the condition of the soldiers, what Government is doing to supply their wants, the efficiency of the work of the Commission, and what supplies are most needed for present and future use.

I first visited Chattanooga, where I found our agents working up to their full strength. The store-room, in charge of M. D. Bartlett, was clean, and all the goods arranged in order. Mr. Bartlett is kind, courteous, patient, ready to investigate carefully every call for help, and is eminently qualified for his place.

The Hospital Visitor there, Rev. Prof. Hosford, is well received, and is a valuable member of the Commission.

Dr. Hazen, Special Relief Agent of the Commission, has gone home on furlough on account of ill-health.

Mr. Worth, the Transportation Agent, is sick, and will leave as soon as he is able

to bear the ride home. M. C. Read, while he has an eye to all parts of the work, was at the time of my visit much occupied with the large hospital gardens. Two hundred acres, including forty acres of vineyard, will soon be planted. This land had to be fenced and plowed. The seed and many garden implements were furnished by the Commission by purchase; but many more implements were obtained by order of Gen. Thomas from the abandoned farms in the vicinity, most of which, within five or six miles, were visited for that purpose.

The land selected is of excellent quality, and we have reason to expect a yield sufficient to supply all the wants of the hospitals in the vicinity, at a time when vegetables cannot be obtained from the North.

The hospitals I found in an improved condition. Many of the sick have been removed, and several hospitals have been broken up since my last visit. The General Field Hospital, in charge of C. E. Byrne, Ass't Surg. U. S. A., on April 5th, contained 555 patients, including the small-pox ward, which had 55. The mortality had been large, 143 deaths in March, including all cases, refugees and negroes, as well as soldiers. Total number of cases treated was 959. There were white soldiers remaining sick the last of February, 467—wounded 71; admitted during March, sick, 400; wounded, 21. Returned to duty, 263; sent to other hospitals, 128; furloughed, 5; discharged, 2; died, 78; remaining sick, 440—wounded, 43.

Some of the principal diseases were as follows: small-pox, 30 cases; varioloid, 19—of these there were 13 deaths; measles, 76, and 29 deaths; inflammation of the lungs 39, and 15 deaths. No scurvy.

U. S. Colored Troops—number treated during March, 105; returned to duty, 19; sent to other hospitals, 2; died, 23; remaining sick, 51; wounded, 4.

Citizen employees treated during the month, 53; returned to duty, 19; sent to other hospitals, 19; died, 6; remaining, 9.

No special wants, except vegetables, in this hospital, the surgeon having supplied many delicacies, and many others were drawn from the Commission.

Preparations are being made to build hospitals on Lookout Mountain. The Officers' Hospital has been removed there. Gen. Thomas advised me to make a garden also on the top of the mountain, as he thought it would be very convenient, and the land could be made to produce well by sending up fifty or a hundred loads of manure. I mention this to show that he was ready to give all necessary assistance.

The troops in the field were in better condition than in January or February. There was less scurvy, which very many surgeons assured me was due to the vegetable

tables received from the Commission. I made an effort to obtain the amount of fresh vegetables issued by the Commissaries, and, from the statements received, I judge that but few rations have reached the soldiers for the last six months; not much more, in the aggregate, than was sold to the officers of regiments. Some regiments had not received one full ration of vegetables since the battle of Chickamauga, except what had been furnished by the Commission.

The camps that I visited were well policed and the men well clothed. The 14th U. S. Colored Troops were commanded by Col. Thomas Morgan. The regiment was organized February, 1864, and on March 1st contained 1,000 men, including officers.

Fisher W. Ames is surgeon. I did not see him; but the colonel informed me that the soldiers had all been systematically vaccinated. The camp was beautifully laid out, streets and ditches clean; everything in as good condition as any other regiment. Indeed, the camp was a model of order and neatness, and the black man, as he stood erect, bearing the arms and dressed in the uniform of our country, bore witness to a redeemed manhood.

Upon consultation with Dr. Perin, Medical Director, I telegraphed our agent at Bridgeport to break up camp and bring his tents and all the goods to Chattanooga, which he did; at the same time it was thought best to continue the depot at Stevenson. On my subsequent visit at Stevenson I found everything in most excellent condition. Mr. Wm. A. Sutcliffe, the agent, has not been liberally furnished with goods, but had improved his time in attending to their careful distribution, and preparing comfortable quarters, which he had accomplished with no expense and very little help; his accommodations for himself and others show, to great advantage, how much can be done by ingenuity and industry. I visited with him the burial ground, for the purpose of obtaining a list of the dead, but did not succeed to any great extent; if one was kept, it was by the undertaker, whose books were in Huntsville.

I sent to him to obtain the list, which, if obtained, I will forward to you promptly. I found graves, fourteen in number, enclosed by a light railing, two of which were marked as follows: Joseph Littlejohn, Co. H, 18th Ohio, died July 7th, 1862, and Isaac Johnson, Co. D, 61st Ohio, died July 30, 1862. No others were marked. These were undoubtedly with Gen. Mitchell when he made his advance there.

The "Home," in Stevenson, established by Government, is in charge of Capt. Park Wheeler, 149th N. Y. During the return of troops to and from their homes, he has fed about 1,000 per day; lodging about 300

each night, while about 100 have been compelled to sleep in the open air without covering. He has received bed-sacks, comforts, candlesticks, sponges, and other articles of furniture from the Commission, as well as a liberal share of vegetables to feed his men. He wants several other articles, which I informed him would be furnished on a proper order.

Promising Mr. Sutcliffe a more liberal supply of stores, I went on to Huntsville. There I found but one General Hospital, in charge of J. H. Early, 17th Iowa, with one assistant, and no lack of cooks and nurses. There were 53 patients. In the same building, mentioned in my last report as the "Calhoun House," in which one of the patients said, "we have a good house, but that is all; nothing good to eat, and hard beds," they now have comfortable beds, the surgeon remarking, "Sanitary has given to us all the comforts, and without them we should be comfortless."

The rooms of the Commission, in charge of Mr. May and Mr. Norton, are well kept, but at the time of my visit, they had few goods, and the calls for help were frequent.

The Western Sanitary Commission have a room next door, and seemed to have a better supply, yet not near enough for the demand.

Returning to Nashville, I visited Murfreesboro, April 18, where are six hospitals, one for small-pox, and one for contrabands, containing 760 patients in all, with the prospect that the number will be increased rather than diminished.

Rev. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Hogue are doing all that could reasonably be asked of any man; Mr. Kennedy co-operating with the Post Chaplain, with him visiting the hospitals, and often preaching for him on invitation. The hospital garden in Murfreesboro' is much larger than last year, and, under the care of John Harmon, the same gardener, is even in better condition. It is mostly planted. Peas, onions, lettuce, beets, cabbage, &c., were up, and gave promise of an abundant and early harvest.

The hospitals in Nashville remain about the same as at my last report. The number of sick is (April 20) 4,282, in charge of Surgeon Clendennin, Assistant Medical Director of the department. The small-pox hospital is much better for the accommodation of the patients than the old one, and the mortality is less.

There are ten hundred and forty-three vacant beds. There are also four hundred and twenty-seven contrabands in hospital, about one-half of them soldiers.

The soldiers in the field are well clothed, and have no lack of good food, except fresh vegetables. But few of these, compared with the demand, are yet furnished; as proof, I select one letter from many of similar import:

WHITESIDE, TENN., April 12, 1864.

Sanitary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.:

Our command is suffering much for want of vegetables. I have made every effort through our commissaries, and through your agents at Bridgeport and Chattanooga, to obtain them, but so far in vain. We report twenty to fifty cases of scurvy from two regiments alone, and those cases are on the increase. If you can send me direct, or through your agents, a few barrels of potatoes and onions, you will much oblige,

Your ob't serv't,

The great obstacle in the way of furnishing a supply is want of transportation, the demand for which is urgent from all points of the army, and we are obtaining perhaps our full share.

The commander at Knoxville telegraphs: "Send vegetables in preference to other commissary stores." Dr. Perin, the faithful Medical Director of the Army of the Cumberland, promises to aid us in procuring transportation for all we can furnish. Dr. Kitto, who has recently inspected the 11th and 15th Army Corps, assures me that the great want is fresh vegetables, although there are but few well marked cases of scurvy.

They are now going forward quite freely; on the 20th, five car loads; on the 21st, seven; and, in addition to the order to give us at least two cars daily, Captain Lytle has promised to load two for Pulaski, and two for Decatur, which will be distributed by Mrs. Bickerdyke and Mrs. Porter.

Having forwarded the large amount of vegetables now here, and on the way, we must next turn our attention to securing in Chattanooga a large amount of reserved battle stores, and obtain for them, if possible, from that post, transportation. This will be the most difficult part of our work. We cannot procure teams, or feed them, without difficulty, if indeed it can be done at all, independently of the Government officers. And upon consultation with Gen. Webster, Gen. Sherman's chief of staff, to whom we are under many obligations for past favors, I have decided to depend on Government, and to offer to each medical director of divisions one wagon load of such stores as he may select, in addition to all the medical supplies he is permitted to take, to go forward as sanitary stores.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure of assuring you that the work of the Commission is vastly increased, and, so far as I can judge, is prosperous in all departments.

There are several Medical Inspectors in the Department, who report to Dr. Douglas, but Drs. Castleman and Parker have rendered me essential service in obtaining full statements from many brigades of the amount of vegetables issued by the Government.

There is not a General Hospital in the Department that is not visited often by one of our hospital visitors.

The special relief agents are constantly employed, and find, and often relieve, every variety of suffering.

Mothers coming for their children, wives seeking their sick husbands, are helped on their way; soldiers furloughed and discharged, are helped on their way to the homes they are so anxious to reach. Or a little girl comes and asks, "Where is my father?" Agent answers, "Don't know;" she replies, "Well, you ought to, you must have seen him; he wears Co. G., 83d Indiana, on his cap." Poor girl, she was not permitted to go to her father.

The Home in Nashville has been overcrowded, but is admirably managed by Capt. Brown.

In addition to the one established by Government at Chattanooga, which is only common barracks, one is needed there to receive the sick, discharged, and furloughed soldiers who are sent back from the advance, and compelled to remain there awaiting transportation. I hope to be able to secure some better accommodations for them.

The transportation agents are taxed to their utmost in order to secure transportation where there is so much competition, and where success very much depends upon personal effort, even where the most liberal orders are maintained; but with all the difficulties, vegetables are being sent forward liberally, and I hope by securing a large supply of reserve stores, to be in readiness for impending movements.

Mr. Root, our Hospital Visitor at Nashville, also writes as follows on the condition of the troops encamped near that city, and the contribution of stores amongst them by the Commission in Jan. and Feb. last:

The number of men in these regiments, the number of sick and the character of their diseases, and the condition of the camps, I stated in a former report. The regiments that were stationed here for the time above specified, were from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee; besides detachments from other States. In many of them were regimental hospitals, and in all of them sick soldiers, under treatment by regimental surgeons. From the commanding officers and surgeons of these regiments I obtained information of the wants of their men in camp, and have from time to time furnished them with such sanitary supplies as were required.

From my frequent visits to their camps, I knew that the supplies furnished were faithfully applied; and the officers and soldiers in many of them have voluntarily

united in letters of thanks to the Aid Societies and ladies of the Northern States, for the supplies received through their agency. These letters I have forwarded to you, and many of them are published in a supplement to the *Sanitary Reporter*.

If any one doubts the good that is done through the U. S. Sanitary Commission, let him read the effusions of thankfulness from the warm hearts of our gallant soldiers. Testimony to the same effect could be had from thousands more, if it were desired.

The following articles, from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, were distributed among the soldiers of the regiments around Nashville, during the months of January and February, 1864:

Blankets, 42; comforts, 158; bedticks, 62; pillows, 121; pillow cases, 249; sheets, 212; shirts, 908; drawers, 672 pairs; towels, 588; socks, 636 pairs; slippers, 38 pairs; mittens, 150 pairs; fruit, 351 cans; condensed beef, 134 cans; dried fruit, 5,800 lbs.; groceries, 855 lbs., such as farina, &c.; wine and spirits, 272 bottles; condensed milk, 48 cans; apple butter, 88 gallons; pickles, 512 gallons; krait, 2,150 gallons; potatoes, 623 bushels; onions, 231 bushels; ale 106 gallons; green apples, 14 bushels; crackers, 612 lbs.; tea, 50 lbs.; sugar, 370 lbs. Besides a variety of smaller articles.

The supplies furnished to State agencies from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which are considerable, are not included in the above list of articles distributed. The greatest need I found to exist among the regiments from East Tennessee. The men of these regiments have been compelled to carry on a desultory warfare with the rebels, many months before Gen. Burnside reached Knoxville.

They had suffered every thing but the loss of their lives and honor. Their property had been plundered or destroyed, and they had been driven from their homes, to find shelter and a precarious subsistence in the mountains.

When protection came, they rallied under the federal flag, with brave hearts, but in a weak and exhausted bodily condition.

Owing to these circumstances, sickness had been more fatal among them, than among the men of other regiments. In talking upon this subject with Dr. Mitchell, the Surgeon of the 102d Ohio regiment of infantry, whose camp was near them, and who had often visited them when sick, he remarked, that when any of them had a severe attack of disease, they were sure to die, not only for the reason above mentioned, but for another reason which he stated, to this effect: they have no home, no pleasant future in anticipation; the mothers, and sisters, wives and daughters, of many of them, have perished; while those that survive are houseless wanderers, within the rebel lines, from whom no tidings can be

had, or pining and starving amidst the desolations of their once happy country.

Such is the picture that continually presents itself before the minds of the East Tennessee soldiers; and when disease seizes upon them, it is no wonder that it should prove fatal, aggravated, as it must be, by sickness of heart that no medicine can cure.

The U. S. Sanitary Commission has done for them what it could, and I have the satisfaction of knowing it has done very much to relieve their sufferings.

HOUSES AND LODGES.

NASHVILLE.

During the four weeks ending April 30, 4,750 soldiers have been admitted from twenty-four different States; 4,867 lodgings have been furnished, and 18,525 meals. Transportation has been furnished for 4,314; and pay, to the amount of \$8,328.04, has been drawn and paid over.

MEMPHIS.

At the Lodge at Memphis there have been admitted, during the four weeks ending May 1st, 1,414 men, from twenty different States; 4,389 meals were furnished, and 1,169 lodgings. Transportation was procured for 117.

CAMP NELSON.

The following is a statement of the operations of the Home at this Post, for the month of April, 1864.

The uncertain destiny of Camp Nelson for the past month, seems to have suspended its usual operations, and also to have directed trade and travellers from the Camp.

However, Camp Nelson is not now the scene of the gigantic business which it once was, consequently, we have to report a smaller number of inmates of the Home for the month of April.

Number of lodgings for the month of April, 2,181. Number of meals for the month of April, 7,455.

On the 18th of April, Chaplain Henderson, of the 112th Illinois Regiment, advised me that (14) fourteen barrels of potatoes, (2) two kegs of pickles, and one box of sundries, were at Paris, Ky., for his regiment, and he desired me to procure them for distribution, as Sanitary stores. I immediately telegraphed for the stores, to be sent on to me at Camp Nelson.

This evening, Chaplain Pell, of the 12th Regiment of Cavalry, who, on the 28th of last December, left Knoxville, with me for Louisville, came to camp and informed me that for four months he had been lecturing in behalf of his special object, viz.: to raise Sanitary stores for his regiment, and his success had attained (16) sixteen boxes, and (5) five barrels, which he expected by Government transportation the same evening. Finding that his regiment had gone two days previous for London, Tenn, he very wisely turned over the shipment to the depot here, taking my receipt for it.

The sterling philanthropy of Chaplain Pell is highly commendable. For four months he had labored assiduously to collect these stores for his regiment, and, doubtless, looked forward with much pleasure to the time when he should dispense them to the greedy men under his care.

Ascertaining that transportation could not be procured, he expressed himself equally recompensed by the assurance that the soldier in his sickness and need, whether from Michigan or Maine, or any other loyal State, might be comforted by them. This is the doctrine of justice and true benevolence.

I had thought that the good people who labor incessantly, and contribute so abundantly and generously to the soldier, had learned long ago the great impropriety and wastefulness positively incurred, by shipping stores to regiments. While at Murreboro', last summer, I received over a hundred boxes, for individuals and companies in the Army of the Cumberland, three-fourths of which were worthless, ere the owner could be found. So, in the shipment from Illinois for the 112th Regiment, the boxes regarded by the Chaplain as most valuable, were not worth a half dollar, while some of the barrels were damaged by long delays and careless handling. These consequences, so far as my experience extends, almost invariably attach to private shipments to State troops.

In conclusion, I will state the Home at Camp Nelson, is the Post Church. We have regular services morning and evening, every Lord's day, and a prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Several protracted meetings have already been held. Chaplains who remain in camp with their comrades, are tendered the use of our large dining hall, which is frequently filled with soldiers, employees and visitors, both white and otherwise.

Dr. Woods, Chaplain U. S. A., and Rev. L. A. Payson, Hospital Visitor U. S. Sanitary Commission, are our regular preachers; while a stranger generally appears every week to aid them.

The Home is now thoroughly whitewashed, and the sodding, &c., will be completed this week.

WASHINGTON.

The following is some of the labor performed in this office for the quarter ending April 1st: Amount of money collected upon four hundred and sixty-six cases, \$58,493.21; amount of money forwarded upon eighty drafts \$8,321.20; number of men lodged, 4,231; number of meals furnished, 20,915; number of letters written, 1,116; number of letters received, 233.

ANNAPOLIS.

The Rev. Mr. Hennis reports:

I have the honor to report that the Home in this city, established by your direction for the benefit of nurses, mothers, wives, and relatives of soldiers located in this vicinity, more especially for the sick and wounded in our hospitals, is in successful operation, meeting with general favor from those who visit it and know personally of its operations. During the latter part of January and the month of February, we had but very few visitors; as the exchange of prisoners was suspended, our hospitals, which are principally for the reception of paroled prisoners, being nearly cleared, and consequently there was little to call the relatives of soldiers to this point. During the month of March there has been a large increase, and at present the Home is well filled; and I cannot convey to you any adequate conception of the gratitude manifested by those who share the benefits of the Home,

and believe that it is exerting a good influence, in recommending the Commission to the favorable consideration of those who have known but little of its operations in detail.

The number of meals and lodgings afforded since the 1st of January to the 1st of April, are as follows: Meals, 1,221; lodgings, 408; besides a large number of meals which have been given to the male relatives of our soldiers, and others who have visited by invitation. I would suggest that permission be asked to purchase stores from the commissary of this post for the Home, on the same conditions as they are afforded to officers, which would be quite a saving to the Commission.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

A meeting of the Associate members of the United States Sanitary Commission was held a fortnight ago in the rooms of the Executive Committee, No. 76 Kingston Street, to listen to a report concerning the Special Relief Service of the Commission in this city, for the year ending March 31, 1864. H. B. Rogers, Esq., presided.

John B. Blatchford, Esq., on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Boston Associates, presented a report concerning the Special Relief of the Commission for the year ending March 31, 1864.

"The service was established April 1, 1863. Rooms located at No. 76 Kingston Street were furnished for the purpose. The establishment is now equipped consists of an office, reception room, sleeping rooms, containing 60 beds; a hospital ward, with 12 beds, with convenient wash rooms, bath rooms, and water closet; capacious closets for hospital stores, clothing, and linen, and a room appropriated for the use of the wives, mothers, and sisters of sick soldiers, who often accompany them on their return to their homes.

"The first applicant for aid was received April 7, 1863. Since then 11,190 soldiers have received aid, as classified in the following statement:

"Secured transportation at reduced (government) rate to 4,990; furnished transportation paid by the Commission to 193; secured transportation by U. S. Quartermaster for 781; furnished carriage within the city, for sick and feeble, for 1,627; special attendance to their homes in charge of messengers to 85; furnished lodging, 6,305; number of meals, 16,351—to 7,945; clothing—number of garments, 677—to 355; aid in arranging papers, 147; aid in obtaining pay, 190; medical advice, 400; wounds dressed, 279; procured commutation of rations, 75; loaned money, 51; gave money, 85; sent to hospital, 100; referred to local relief associations, 42; secured re-enlistment, 20; amount of back pay collected, \$20,559 16; furnished undertaker's services, 5; deaths, 2.

"In addition to the above, a considerable amount of aid has been rendered to resident, discharged, disabled soldiers and their families; permanent and remunerative employment having, in some instances, been obtained for disabled men, who, otherwise, would remain a helpless burden upon our charities.

"Of the whole number thus aided, Maine has furnished 4,086; New Hampshire 768; Vermont 121; Massachusetts 4,422; Connecticut 51; Rhode Island 50; New York 140; New Jersey 2; Pennsylvania 34; Maryland 2; District of Columbia 34; Ohio 86; Kentucky 13; Michigan 7; Indiana 7; Illinois 15; Kansas 7; Iowa 10; Minnesota 24; Wisconsin 17; Missouri 5; Tennessee 2; Louisiana 4; Alabama 2; Virginia 2; Georgia 2; Delaware, California, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, and rebel army, 1 each; U. S. regulars, 550; U. S. Navy, 102; veteran reserve corps, 608; corps d'Afrique, 18.

"The Hospital Car service between New York and Boston, established under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Commission in this city, Nov. 2, 1864, has been attended with satisfactory results, 4,805 soldiers having been transported.

"The total expenditure for the year, as shown by the Treasurer's account, has been \$15,478.30, classified as follows: Rent and taxes, \$640.49; furnishing repairs, \$2,613.42; salaries, \$2,148.61; traveling expenses, \$212.57; advertising, \$242.67; stationery and printing, \$512.69; postage, \$14; telegrams, \$6.64; hospital stores, \$238.59; superintendent's expense account, \$6,877.07; miscellaneous, \$249.67; hospital car transportation, \$1,730.88.

"The average cost per man of the service for the first quarter, ending June 30, 1863, was \$2.35; for the second quarter, ending September 30, 1863, \$1.28; for the third quarter, ending December 31, 1863, \$1.15; and for the fourth quarter, ending March 31, 1864, \$1.08.

"The necessary funds for the support of the 'Special Relief Service' of the Commission in this city are drawn from the Treasurer of the Boston Branch, J. Huntington Wolcott, Esq. \$10,000—being a portion of the proceeds of the Fair held in this city in December last, in aid of the Sanitary Commission—was donated for the support of this service, by the N. E. Woman's Auxiliary Association. The amount in the treasury, April 1, 1864, was \$6,863.32, which, at the current rate of expenditures for the last quarter, will suffice to meet the expenses of the next four months.

"The rooms are open at all hours of the day and night, and provision is made at the principal railway stations to meet such soldiers as may require aid upon the arrival of trains, and convey them to the rooms or to connecting trains.

"It is the policy of the Commission to facilitate the return of all soldiers to their homes or camps with the least possible delay, but during their delay they enjoy the comforts of a home, with cheerful surroundings, and ever ready hands to minister all needed aid and comfort. Their frequent and earnest expressions of pleasure and gratitude evince their appreciation of the beneficent services thus rendered them."

To illustrate the great variety of cases in which the Commission has been of service to the soldier, Mr. Blatchford read several extracts from the record book, in which is recorded the name of every man who is in any way aided by the Commission, together with a sketch of the particular kind of help given him. These records were deeply interesting, and gave copious proofs of the efficiency of the organization.

MARKED ARTICLES.

Some of the marks which are fastened on the blankets, shirts, &c., sent to the Sanitary Commission for the soldiers, show the thought and feeling at home. Thus—on a home-spun blanket, worn, but washed as clean as snow, was pinned a bit of paper, which said: "This blanket was carried by Milly Aldrich, (who is ninety-three years old,) down hill and up hill, one and a half miles, to be given to some soldier."

On a bed quilt was pinned a card, saying: "My son is in the army. Whoever is made warm by this quilt, which I have worked on for six days and almost all of six nights, let him remember his own mother's love."

On another blanket was this: "This blanket was used by a soldier in the war of 1812—it may keep some soldier warm in this war against traitors."

On a pillow was written: "This pillow belonged to my little boy, who died resting on it; it is a precious treasure to me, but I give it for the soldiers."

On a pair of woolen socks was written: "These stockings were knit by a little girl five years old, and she is going to knit some more, for mother says it will help some poor soldier."

On a box of beautiful lint was this mark: "Made in a sick room, where the sunlight has not entered for nine years, but where God has entered, and where two sons have bid their mother good-bye, as they have gone out to the war."

On a bundle containing bandages was written: "This is a poor gift, but it is all I had. I have given my husband and my boy, and only wish I had more to give, but I haven't."

On some eye-shades were marked: "Made by one who is blind. Oh, how I long to see the dear old flag that you are all fighting under."—*Sanitary Reporter*.

NOTES ON NURSING.

WHAT FOOD?

I will mention one or two of the most common errors among women in charge of sick respecting sick diet. One is the belief that beef tea is the most nutritive of all articles. Now, just try and boil down a pound of beef into beef tea, evaporate your beef tea, and see what is left of your beef. You will find that there is barely a tea-spoonful of solid nourishment to half a pint of water in beef tea;—nevertheless there is a certain reparative quality in it, we do not know what, as there is in tea; but it may safely be given in almost any inflammatory disease, and is as little to be depended upon with the healthy or convalescent where much nourishment is required. Again, it is an ever ready saw that an egg is equivalent to a pound of meat—whereas it is not at all so. Also, it is seldom noticed with how many patients, particularly of nervous or bilious temperament, eggs disagree. All puddings made with eggs, are distasteful to them in consequence. An egg, whipped up with wine, is often the only form in which they can take this kind of nourishment. Again, if the patient has attained to eating meat, it is supposed that to give him meat is the only thing needful for his recovery; whereas scorbutic sores have been actually known to appear among sick persons living in the midst of plenty in England, which could be traced to no other source than this, viz.: that the nurse, depending on meat alone, had allowed the patient to be without vegetables for a considerable time, these latter being so badly cooked that he always left them untouched. Arrowroot is another grand dependence of the nurse. As a vehicle for wine, and a restorative quickly prepared, it is all very well. But it is nothing but starch and water. Flour is both more nutritive, and less liable to ferment, and is preferable wherever it can be used.

Again, milk and the preparations from milk, are a most important article of food for the sick. Butter is the lightest kind of animal fat, and though it wants the sugar and some of the other elements which there are in milk, yet it is most valuable both in itself and in enabling the patient to eat more bread. Flour, oats, groats, barley, and their kind, are, as we have already said, preferable in all their preparations to all the preparations of arrowroot, sago, tapioca, and their kind. Cream, in many long chronic diseases, is quite irreplaceable by any other article whatever. It seems to act in the same manner as beef tea, and to most it is much easier of digestion than milk. In fact, it seldom disagrees. Cheese is not usually digestible by the sick, but it is pure nourishment for repairing waste; and I have seen sick, and not a few either, whose craving for cheese showed how much it was needed by them.

In the diseases produced by bad food, such as scorbutic dysentery and diarrhoea, the patient's stomach often craves for and digests things, some of which certainly would be laid down in no dietary that ever was invented for sick, and especially not for such sick. These are fruit, pickles, jams, gingerbread, fat of ham or bacon, sweet, cheese, butter, milk. These cases I have seen not by ones, nor by tens, but by hundreds. And the patient's stomach was right and the

book was wrong. The articles craved for, in these cases, might have been principally arranged under the two heads of fat and vegetable acids.

There is often a marked difference between men and women in this matter of sick feeling. Women's digestion is generally slower.

But, if fresh milk is so valuable a food for the sick, the least change or sourness in it, makes it of all articles, perhaps, the most injurious; diarrhoea is a common result of fresh milk allowed to become at all sour. The nurse, therefore, ought to exercise her utmost care in this. In large institutions for the sick, even the poorest, the utmost care is exercised. Wenham Luke ice is used for this express purpose every summer, while the private patient, perhaps, never tastes a drop of milk that is not sour, all through the hot weather, so little does the private nurse understand the necessity of such care. Yet, if you consider that the only drop of real nourishment in your patient's tea is the drop of milk, and how much almost all English patients depend upon their tea, you will see the great importance of not depriving your patient of this drop of milk. Buttermilk, a totally different thing, is often very useful, especially in fevers.

In laying down rules of diet, by the amounts of "solid nutriment" in different kinds of food, it is constantly lost sight of what the patient requires to repair his waste, what he can take and what he can't. You cannot diet a patient from a book, you cannot make up the human body as you would make up a prescription—so many parts "carboniferous," so many parts "nitrogenous" will constitute a perfect diet for the patient. The nurse's observation here will materially assist the doctor—the patient's "fancies" will materially assist the nurse. For instance, sugar is one of the most nutritive of all articles, being pure carbon, and is particularly recommended in some books. But the vast majority of all patients in England, young and old, male and female, rich and poor, hospital and private, dislike sweet things—and while I have never known a person take to sweets when he was ill who disliked them when he was well. I have known many fond of them when in health, who in sickness would leave off anything sweet, even to sugar in tea—sweet puddings, sweet drinks, are their aversion; the furred tongue almost always likes what is sharp or pungent. Scorbutic patients are an exception, they often crave for sweetmeats and jams.

Jelly is another article of diet in great favor with nurses and friends of the sick; even if it could be eaten solid, it would not nourish, but it is simply the height of folly to take $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of gelatine and make it into a certain bulk by dissolving it in water, and then to give it to the sick, as if the mere bulk represented nourishment. It is now known that jelly does not nourish, that it has a tendency to produce diarrhoea—and to trust it to repair the waste of a diseased constitution, is simply to starve the sick under the guise of feeding them. If one hundred spoonfuls of jelly were given in the course of the day, you would have given one spoonful of gelatine, which spoonful has no nutritive power whatever.

And, nevertheless, gelatine contains a large

quantity of nitrogen, which is one of the most powerful elements in nutrition; on the other hand, beef tea may be chosen as an illustration of great untrifling power in sickness, co-existing with a very small amount of solid nitrogenous matter.

Dr. Christison says that "every one will be struck with the readiness with which" certain classes of "patients will often take diluted meat juice or beef tea repeatedly, when they refuse all other kinds of food." This is particularly remarkable in "cases of gastric fever, in which," he says, "little or nothing else besides beef tea or diluted meat juice" has been taken for weeks or even months; "and yet a pint of beef tea contains scarcely $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of any thing but water." The result is so striking, that he asks what is its mode of action? "Not simply nutritive— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of the most untrifling material cannot nearly replace the daily wear and tear of the tissues in any circumstances. Possibly," he says, "it belongs to a new denomination of remedies."

It has been observed, that a small quantity of beef tea, added to other articles of nutrition, augments their power out of all proportion to the additional amount of solid matter.

The reason why jelly should be in nutrition and beef tea nutritious to the sick, is a secret yet undiscovered; but it clearly shows that careful observation of the sick is the only clue to the best dietary.

Chemistry has as yet afforded little insight into the dieting of sick. All that chemistry can tell us is the amount of "carboniferous" or "nitrogenous" elements discoverable in different dietetic articles. It has given us lists of dietetic substances, arranged in the order of their richness in one or other of these principles; but that is all. In the great majority of cases, the stomach of the patient is guided by other principles of selection than merely the amount of carbon or nitrogen in the diet. No doubt, in this as in other things, nature has very definite rules for her guidance; but these rules can only be ascertained by the most careful observation at the bedside. She there teaches us that living chemistry, the chemistry of repair, is something different from the chemistry of the laboratory. Organic chemistry is useful, as all knowledge is, when we come face to face with nature; but it by no means follows that we should learn in the laboratory any one of the reparative processes going on in disease.

Again, the nutritive power of milk, and of the preparations from milk, is very much undervalued; there is nearly as much nourishment in half a pint of milk as there is in a quarter of a pound of meat. But this is not the whole question or nearly the whole. The main question is what the patient's stomach can assimilate or derive nourishment from, and of this the patient's stomach is the sole judge. Chemistry cannot tell this. The patient's stomach must be its own chemist. The diet which will keep the healthy man healthy, will kill the sick one. The same beef which is the most nutritive of all meat, and which nourishes the healthy man, is the least nourishing of all food to the sick man, whose half-dead stomach can assimilate no part of it, that is, make no food out of it. On a diet of beef tea healthy men, on the other hand, speedily lose their strength.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 65 Wall Street, N. Y.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

Vol. I.

NEW YORK, JUNE 1, 1864.

No. 15.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRAON, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

A FEW DAYS AMONGST OUR WOUNDED.

NEW YORK, May 24, 1864.

DR. FOSTER JENKINS, *General Secretary,*
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

MY DEAR SIR—Pursuant to the request of the Standing Committee, I beg leave to present the following informal report (necessarily imperfect from the haste with which it has been prepared,) of the organization and operations of the relief system of the Commission in N. E. Virginia since the opening of the present campaign.

I left New York on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 10th, for the purpose of making a personal examination of the working of the Commission for the aid and relief of the wounded by the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. At Washington, I learned that the wounded had collected in immense numbers at Fredericksburg, and were already being transported to Belle Plain, on their way, by hospital transports, to Washington and Alexandria. Up to Sunday night, the 8th, everybody in Washington expected that the wounded would be sent to the rear via Rappahannock Station and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and to this end great preparations had been made by the Quartermaster's Department under advice from the Medical Bureau. Immense trains of cars, with a full corps of surgeons, were sent out to the Rappahannock Station on that day.

There they waited until the next day, when, it having been ascertained that the wounded were already in very large numbers at Fredericksburg, the trains were ordered back to Alexandria.

I make this introductory statement with some precision, since it furnishes a key to the difficulties which attended the care of the wounded at Fredericksburg during the

period from May 8th to Thursday, May 12th.

Fredericksburg is about ten miles from Belle Plain, and as the railroad from Aquia Creek had been thoroughly destroyed, the most direct and available access to the thousands of wounded already gathered at the former place, was via Potomac Creek and Belle Plain Landing. The rebels had long ago destroyed the wharves at Belle Plain, but during the 8th and 9th of May, most vigorous efforts were made by the Quartermaster's Department to prepare a temporary landing. To this landing, on Monday and Tuesday, (9th and 10th of May,) came a fleet of transports conveying ordnance stores, fighting rations, hospital appliances, and means of shelter for the incoming wounded. The dock, a most creditable structure, considering the time within which it was built, but, perhaps, hardly large enough for the demands made upon its capacity, presented a fearful scene when I arrived at Belle Plain on Wednesday afternoon.

I found one of our supply barges, the Kennedy, at the dock, and Dr. Steiner directing the operations of the Commission. Down the right-hand side of the U-shaped dock, slowly moved a single file of army wagons filled with wounded men; at the end or corner of the dock, by the gangway of a large Government transport, stood that most efficient and admirable officer, Dr. Cuyler, Acting Medical Inspector General, U. S. A., receiving the wounded, and superintending their removal from the wagons to the deck of the transport, preparatory to their transfer to the hospital steamboats that lay in the offing. After each wagon had deposited its living freight, it passed around the end of the dock to the left-hand side, and there took in ammunition or fighting rations, the orders being imperative to return to the front only with full loads of these indispensable supplies. Crowding along the narrow margin of the dock were continuous lines of men carrying litters and stretchers on which were such of the more severely wounded as had been removed from the wagons at the hospital tents, on the hill-side above the plain. Hour after hour, for several days, was this fearful procession kept up. It would

not be proper for me to state how many thousands thus passed under Dr. Cuyler's inspection, but I cannot forbear mentioning the most distinguished zeal, energy and self-devotion with which his arduous duties were performed. His administrative skill, his quick and ready humanity, his almost ubiquitous presence, his self-denying exposure to the pelting rain, while laboring to secure prompt shelter to the wounded, his night work and day work, his personal attentions to even the little wants and minor discomforts of each individual sufferer, were the subjects of universal admiration. Dr. Brinton, (Medical Purveyor of the Army of the Potomac,) was also there, working with vigor in the difficult undertaking of forwarding medical supplies to Fredericksburg.

By the end of the pier lay the barge Kennedy, the storeboat and headquarters of the Commission. Here, as elsewhere, every thing was astir. Gen. Abercrombie, commandant of the post, was making it his temporary headquarters. Out in the stream, amid a promiscuous collection of transports, lay the steamboat Rapley, loaded with stores from the Washington storehouses of the Commission. Near her lay the barge Washington, with a load of army wagons and horses for the Commission's service. After great difficulty, and the exercise of no little ingenuity, the stores from the Rapley were put ashore, half a mile up the creek in small boats, and the wagons loaded and sent to Fredericksburg. Capt. J. W. Clarke, of the Quartermaster's Department, and Capt. Luby, 15th Regiment New York Engineer Corps, gave us most cheerful and essential aid in this work. Indeed, from all the officers at the post of the Commission we received nothing but kind services and expressions of the heartiest good-will. Captains Pitkins and Lacey, of the Quartermaster's Department, provided every facility in their power, and from General Abercrombie and Colonel Cuyler, down, every body seemed to take pleasure in aiding us. From Monday the 9th, until this time, incessant exertions have been made by the officers of the Medical, Quartermaster's, Commissary's and Ordnance Departments, to remove the wounded from the rear of the army and replenish the

trains for forward movements. No one at home can form any idea of the labors of the officers in these departments, day after day and night after night, oftentimes living meanwhile on the scantiest subsistence, such as coffee and crackers, and these hurriedly taken. We are oftentimes loud in our praises of military commanders for achieving victory, but seldom give due credit for the result to the quartermasters, who work with almost superhuman energy at some base of supplies, and on whose talent, energy and fertility in resources the very existence of the army depends. The agents of the U. S. Sanitary Commission formed no mean feature in this scene of energy and successful labor. Up to May 21st, the Commission sent nearly 200 tons of sanitary stores, including stimulants, farinaceous food, beef stock, condensed milk, bandages, &c., from Belle Plain and Fredericksburg. It will be interesting to note the fact here, that the relief service of the Commission has involved, since Gen. Grant crossed the Rapidan, and Gen. Butler went up the James River, the use of four steamboats, three barges and two schooners, for the transportation of its stores from Washington to Belle Plain, and from Baltimore to Norfolk, the latter being the Commission's base of supplies for Butler's army.

At Belle Plain, in addition to a relief station on the barge by the wharf, the Commission has maintained a corps of relief agents at a feeding station near the hospital depot, providing food for thousands of weary and hungry men who arrive there in ambulances and wagons, and another at White Oak Church, half-way from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg, where hot coffee, soft crackers, and beef soup, have been issued to wounded and disabled men on their way to hospital, many of whom have not tasted food for hours.

The operations of the Commission at Belle Plain, including the movements of trains of supply wagons, have been conducted by Mr. F. N. Kuapp, whose experience in every branch of relief service has made his name the synonym for energy and beneficence wherever the Commission is known.

At Fredericksburg, the Commission's

work under the able direction of Dr. Douglas, Chief Inspector, is three-fold: First, there is a large storehouse on Commercial Street, under the care of Mr. Johnson, from which, since the 9th of May, about 200 tons of sanitary stores have been issued to hospitals upon the requisitions of surgeons. Secondly, a corps of relief agents numbering from 160 to 225, under the leadership of Mr. Fay, divided into squads and assigned to the various division hospitals. These relief agents report the wants of the hospitals to Mr. Fay, perform the duties of nurses, and seize every opportunity to minister to the complicated and various necessities of the wounded, as indicated by the advice or orders of the surgeons in charge of them. Thirdly, special diet kitchens under the administration of Miss Woolsey, Mrs. Gen. Barlow and Miss Gilson, while Mrs. Gibbons and daughter and Mrs. Husband, lend their expert services to the hospitals. The special diet kitchens are tents with ample cooking arrangements, pitched on the roads from the front to Fredericksburg or Belle Plain. From these, soup, coffee, stimulants, soft bread and other food are issued to thousands of passing wounded. With the army, seven four horse wagons carrying food, stimulants, underclothing and surgical dressings, constantly move under the direction of Dr. Steiner, the Commission Inspector for the Army of the Potomac, and Mr. Johnson, whose services at Gettysburg, and now at Fredericksburg, form a bright record in the special relief work of the Commission. I should say here that these wagons moved with the army from Brandy Station, dispensing stores during the battles of the Wilderness, and then, passing with the wounded to Fredericksburg, went on to Belle Plain to re-load.

The Commission has now forty odd four-horse wagons of its own, carrying sanitary stores from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. On Monday, May 23d, thirty-one of these wagons, carrying nearly forty thousand pounds of sanitary stores went in one train from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. On the same day, our steamboat, the *Rapley*, in charge of Mr. Anderson, with the barge *Kennedy* in tow, cleared from Belle Plain and went up the Rappahannock to add

still more largely to our supplies. Our work then for the sick and wounded of the army of General Meade may be summed up, briefly, as follows: Two steamboats and two barges for conveying sanitary stores from Washington to Belle Plain; forty-four four-horse wagons for conveying sanitary stores from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg and the front; over two hundred tons of sanitary stores sent to Belle Plain and Fredericksburg; over 200 trained relief agents lending their best energies to the hospitals and feeding stations. The outlay for the month of May, so far, has been over one hundred thousand dollars for the Army of the Potomac alone. You will remember that all these operations are in addition to what is being done by the Commission at Washington, for General Sherman's army, and at New Orleans and on the Red River.

I should say, that at Fredericksburg the medical affairs were under the able management of Dr. Dalton, Medical Director, while large numbers of medical men from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere, served day and night in the hospitals, aiding those devoted men, the army surgeons, in their exhaustive and most serious and self-denying duties. Who can sum up the value of the services of the army surgeons? Who can describe in becoming phrases a tithe of what they do for the thousands of suffering men thrown upon their care and skill by the fearful casualties of an active campaign. I never witness their conduct without a sense of the profoundest admiration and a renewed conviction that the best work of our Commission is that by which we endeavor, even in an humble way, to strengthen their hands by supplementary assistance.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. AGNEW.

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
BELLE PLAIN, May 15, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. JENKINS—I cannot condense within the limits of such a note as can be written now, an account of the operations of the Commission at this point. You know the relations of Belle Plain landing to Fredericksburg; it is, in brief, that of a temporary base. The fearful accumulation of our wounded at Fredericksburg

made it imperative to open communications again with sources of supply, and this point was selected. A temporary pier, in the form of a U, was hastily constructed on Monday, at the terminus of the Fredericksburg wagon road. Over this pier and road a mingled crowd of army wagons and ambulances, stragglers and walking wounded, has passed since Monday last, forming a spectacle beyond description. We are using every hand and heart to their utmost power to meet our responsibilities to the wounded. We have used, in the transportation of our sanitary stores, two steamboats and two barges. The *Rapley*, a fast steamboat, of about 150 tons, is plying constantly between Belle Plain landing and Washington. She is chartered to convey stores by us, and carries not only stores, but constant additions to our Field Relief Corps. We have over two hundred active and able men in this corps, who give themselves night and day to the work of feeding the wounded, both at Fredericksburg and at Belle Plain landing.

The dock space here is so inadequate, that the landing of our stores has been a work fraught with immense difficulty. This difficulty is increased by the character of the ground near the base of the pier. Wagons cannot turn, except on the dock, and even then they must move in a continuous single line around the π . Owing to this peculiarity, there was on Wednesday a "jam" of wagons, loaded with wounded, all along the road from the landing to Fredericksburg, a distance of eight or ten miles. These wagons bring in wounded and carry out ordnance stores and fighting rations. During this jam, and, indeed, ever since, we have been compelled to convey our stores in small boats up Potomac Creek a considerable distance, to a point on the shore where the wagons can get across, and thus escape, to as great a degree as possible, the stagnation and confusion of the landing.

A barge arrived on Thursday with four additional four-horse wagons and eighteen horses, in addition to our previous stock of twelve wagons and forty-eight horses. It was necessary to put these wagons overboard, and obtain a gang of twenty colored men to drag them ashore to a point from

which the horses could haul them. Capt. J. W. Clark, a noble specimen of the Quartermaster's Department, gave every facility and furnished the gang of men.

Just as this work was done, the Rapley came down with a load of stores, and, not being able to get to the pier, discharged into pontoon boats, furnished by Captain Timothy Lubez, 15th Regiment N. Y. Engineer Corps, aided by a gang of laborers furnished by Captain Clark.

It has required constant ingenuity and forethought to surmount these and similar difficulties; and yet we have sent thirty four-horse wagon loads of condensed milk, beef stock, woolen clothing, stimulants, crackers, &c., &c., to Fredericksburg, over a most horrid road.

By a rough estimate, I suppose the amount of sanitary stores sent forward since Tuesday to be about 35,000 pounds. To-day we have sent for six additional four-horse wagons and twenty-four horses, so that our train will consist of about twenty-two wagons and nearly one hundred horses.

We have a stationary barge here at the landing; a large feeding station also, where thousands of men have received coffee, or punch, or crackers; and a special relief corps, consisting of students from Princeton and Union Theological Seminaries, and the Episcopal Seminary of New York, with others from Boston, New York, Washington, &c., &c. This relief corps is mainly operating at Fredericksburg, under Mr. Fay; say about 130 at Fredericksburg, and the balance at the feeding station here. I give these numbers in round terms, as the roster is not at hand at this moment. My figures will not vary half a dozen from the actual number, and I have endeavored to under-state rather than over-state. We are endeavoring to gain upon the demands at Fredericksburg, but as yet the calls are fearfully beseeching and exhaustive. Ten wagon loads of stores, sent on Wednesday to Fredericksburg, were issued in less than four hours. This will serve to show the demand. I go to Fredericksburg to-day, not having been able to move from this point since my arrival on Wednesday. Dr. Steiner, our Chief Inspector for the Army of the Potomac, has been here, hard at work, since Tuesday; and Mr. Knapp takes charge,

from to-day, of the whole scheme of special relief and supply work. I cannot now say more; but must, before I close, say just one word concerning that noble, self-sacrificing man, Col. Cuyler, M. D., U. S. A., who has conducted all the operations for the removal of the wounded by the hospital transports. I should fail in any attempt to describe his services. Day and night he has worked, not only in directing the movements, but in dressing wounds and giving personal and ingenious attention to the comfort and safety of the pressing crowd of the weary, wounded and exhausted. Dr. Cuyler is ably assisted by Dr. Thurston, Staff Surgeon.

But not a moment remains to re-read this or add more. Still the clatter, and rush, and confusion continue, and I wonder how I have managed to write even as much as this. Love to the brethren.

Yours affectionately,

C. R. AGNEW.

N. B.—I must say further, that our barge lies next to that of the Medical Purveyor; the old flag is flying, and we constitute a general intelligence office and mail agency. Yesterday a bushel and a half of letters were deposited in our box by the soldiers for those at home. We send off one mail a day, and pay for such soldiers' letters as are not prepaid. Gen. Abercrombie, the commandant of the post, made our barge his headquarters for twenty-four hours, and we have furnished tents for the quarters of several of the principal officers forming the military establishment at the landing. Our agent is out taking names at Fredericksburg for the Hospital Directory.

Yours,

C. R. A.

Dr. Steiner writes, May 23d:

We are now twenty-five miles from Richmond; have been in the saddle every day since we left, living as best we can on the army rations and such few articles as could be picked up on the road. We are now halted at Carmel Hill Church, and expect to cross the North Anna River this afternoon.

Dr. Stevens reported yesterday, and was ordered to follow Abbott, in the 9th Corps, to turn over his wagon to him and then to devote himself to his special business in the 9th Corps and whatever other corps might

be next him. Thus far I have kept with the 5th Corps. Harris having been detailed on other duty, I have been deprived of my ordinary assistant in keeping up the communication. I am, however, satisfied that the work is being well done.

3 o'clock, P. M.—I have just come down to the North Anna; the army is just crossing. No opposition has been offered. The fight is expected to take place somewhere about Hanover Court House.

6 o'clock, P. M.—The rebels have made their appearance in the woods, and have attacked our troops hardly in line of battle, with great vigor and spitefulness. Happening to be within ten feet of the rear of the line of battle when the musketry opened, Mr. Marsh and I had a splendid opportunity of hearing A. P. Hill's bullets and shells. We didn't avail ourselves of the privilege for a very long time, but beat a retreat to the river, re-crossed, and reached the hospitals of the corps, which had just been established by the medical officers. The result of the battle of North Anna was the frustration of the rebel design of destroying one of our corps, our driving them about a mile from their field of battle, leaving two hundred and twenty-four wounded and a few killed, and taking about three hundred prisoners. This morning the rebels have disappeared.

The 6th Corps crossed last night to support the 5th—our corps, as I now call it. Hancock crossed somewhere below yesterday, and judging from the booming of cannon all the morning, he must now be engaged with the enemy. The firing has been incessant for some hours.

The next fight, unless this operation of Hancock's brings it on to-day, will take place at Hanover Court House.

The work from here on is likely to be terrific.

Only be prepared for the new base. You don't know how grateful a thing it was to me to see almost every needy in the hospitals of the 5th Corps supplied with our shirts. Give us large supplies from the new base. I shall need Freeman for my own use.

Mr. Marsh is now taking the names of the wounded at the battle of North Anna.

Our clothing left by the wagons in the 15th Corps Hospital is doing splendid duty now.

The *New York Times* correspondent says, writing from Port Royal, May 28:

The wounded began to arrive on Wednesday evening, and as good luck or good management would have it, two steamers, two barges, a schooner, and a tug boat, all heavily with the stores of the United States Sanitary Commission, got here in advance, and more than a hundred willing men and women were ready to administer to the comfort of the suffering, who were faint and exhausted by a long ride of twenty or thirty miles from the front, some in ambulances, but more in the springless army wagons. Every wounded man was kindly cared for, and the good work has been kept up night and day, until now it is announced that all those wounded up to yesterday have been sent here, and that probably no others will come to this point. The men have been mainly left in the vehicles, until sent on board the arriving boats, to be carried direct to Washington. The Sanitary Relief Corps have gone from wagon to wagon carrying coffee, beef tea, farina, milk punch, &c., and giving out crutches, and affording other relief as needed. I estimate the number of wounded arriving here at about 2,000. As I said of both Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, I say here, that the relief and comfort afforded to the sick and wounded at this point alone have abundantly repaid all the efforts ever made to put funds into the treasury of the Sanitary Commission. I doubt not that hundreds of lives have been saved. If any others arrive, there are now complete hospital boats ready to receive them; and at least part of the Sanitary Commission forces and supplies will soon move to another point, (where you will announce in due time, if not proper now.)

All seem cheerful and confident of success; even the wounded express unbounded confidence. Every inch of ground gained by our troops forward, whether for strategical or other purposes on the part of the army, gives confidence to the men. The next field of operations for the Sanitary Commission will probably be well toward Richmond. The present volunteer force have worked unceasingly night and day for three weeks, and many of them will continue in the field as long as possible. The present expenditures of the Commission are on a vast scale, the managers deeming it their duty to spare no expense to give the most prompt and efficient relief to every wounded man over the vast field now covered by our extensive military operations. Everybody connected with the Commission is, I know, too busy to stop to render any account of their stewardship just now. The soldiers and the country will owe them a great deal of gratitude for

the earnestness and fidelity with which they are executing their heaven-born trust.

Below I send you a list of soldiers buried at Port Royal. They are all buried in one spot, and their graves are numbered in the order that I have numbered the names below.

1. S. V. Martin, Co. I, 67th Penn.—died May 25.
2. Morris Canaan, Battery M, 7th N. Y. Artillery—died May 26.
3. James Ferrell, Co. C, 104th N. Y.—died May 26.
4. Serg't G. Fritchard, Co. D, 143d Penn. Vols.—died May 25.
5. Henry C. Merriess, Co. C, 12th Ky., 2d Bat. U. S. Infantry—died May 26.
6. Michael Drew, Co. C, 91st Penn. Vols., of Richmond, Penn.—died May 26.
7. B. Morritban, (1st Serg't) Co. I, 4th Me.—died May 26.
8. Henry W. Tope, Co. A, 16th Penn. Cav., Venango County, Penn.—died May 26.
9. John Hannum, Co. D, 1st N. Y. Artillery—died May 26.
10. Capt. Henry W. Davis, 1st N. Y., Battery E—died May 27.
11. Alexander De Forrest, 10th Mass.—died May 27.
12. Unknown, 9th Mass. Vols., (residence, Maiden)—died May 27.
13. Thomas B. Story, Co. H, 102d Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
14. A. P. Mattson, Co. C, 105th Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
15. Joseph Vaughn, Co. E, 61st Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
16. Unknown, anchor and shield on left arm in India ink—died May 27.
17. Unknown, 7th Loyal Virginia Vols.—died May 27.
18. James Grace, 63d N. Y.—died May 27.
19. C. Lewis Franklin, Co. F, 7th R. I. Vols.—died May 27.
20. Unknown—probably of Howlyton, Broome County, N. Y.—died May 27.
21. Unknown.
22. Unknown.
23. Unknown.

The above were on their way home, and died before or after arriving at Port Royal. They were buried by the Sanitary Commission Corps, with religious services at the graves. The graves are neatly rounded up, with head-boards having the above markings. A beautiful large bouquet of fresh flowers was planted upon the head of each grave, and the whole left in the charge of George Smith, a good old colored man residing near, who promised to do all he would be allowed to keep the graves inviolate and in order. A more interesting spot, and a more affecting interment I never witnessed. There, at least, is "sacred soil."

The following list of the principal articles carried to Port Royal by the United States Sanitary Commission on Wednesday evening, May 26, will show what is being done with the "funds," and what the Field Relief Corps have to work with among the sick and wounded:

425 bed ticks.
265 blankets.
590 coarse combs.
120 fine combs.
132 medicine cups.
89 pieces mosquito net.
331 pillows.
656 pillow ticks.
216 towels.
2,750 tin cups.
650 tin plates.
250 tin basins.
115 tin buckets.
541 tin spittoons.

445 tin dippers.
115 noddies.
144 candlesticks.
24 knives and forks.
112 wooden pads.
20 stretchers.
50 canes.
1,800 crutches.
2 bales oakum.
22 urinals.
364 chambers.
250 bed-pans.
72 spittoons.
61 spit cups.

1,000 feet lumber.
50 barrels cabbage or curry.
218 barrels sauerkraut.
5,676 cans tomatoes.
443 pounds butter.
453 pounds cheese.
24 barrels potatoes.
10 casks smoking tobacos.
2 boxes pipes.
702 pounds tamarinds.
164 lanterns.
571 wooden drawers.
874 canvas flannel drawers.
61 pants.
1,562 handkerchiefs.
3,741 wooden shirts.
290 cotton shirts.
206 hospital shirts.
84 blouses.
492 shoes.
12 pairs low boots.
540 slippers.
2,470 woolen socks.
313 wrappers of cotton.
4,032 cans condensed milk.
1,728 cans beef.
536 cans meats.
73 cans mutton.
628 cane poultry.
60 pounds extra coffee.

3,132 pounds chocolate.
50 pounds dried apples.
3.25 gallons pickles.
28 boxes corn starch.
8 barrels white sugar.
8 barrels brown sugar.
6 chests tea.
152 bottles vinegar.
720 bottles brandy.
600 bottles wine.
1,360 bottles whiskey.
47½ barrels porter.
150 bottles alcohol.
185 bottles Jamaica rum.
104 bottles bay rum.
102 bottles cologne.
1,000 pills camph. or opil.
36 pounds chloroform.
160 pounds candles.
472 palm fans.
15 barrels bandages.
15 barrels old linen.
8 splints.
15,500 envelopes.
31½ gross paper.
157 dozen pen holders.
14 gross pens.
165 bottles ink.
300 new newspapers.

A dispatch to the Associated Press from Washington, May 31, says:

The Sanitary Commission's steamer John R. Thompson, left Baltimore last evening with sanitary stores, (her second load,) bound for Bermuda Hundred, where she has been stationed for the past fortnight.

The propeller Elizabeth, one of the Baltimore and Philadelphia line, has also been chartered by the Sanitary Commission, and was last night loaded with some forty tons of ice and eighty tons of assorted sanitary stores, and dispatched to the James River. The Thompson and Elizabeth each carried its corps of relief agents. Three other boats in the employ of the Sanitary Commission left the month of the Rappahannock at daylight yesterday morning, for the new base of the Army of the Potomac.

DIARY OF A RELIEF AGENT ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

BELLE PLAIN, Va., May 23, 1864.

It was impossible to get a clearance and away before 9 A. M. I spent the morning in writing orders and digesting plans. On arrival at Aquia Creek, found every indication of an early, if not immediate relinquishment of that point. Mr. Clappitt had gone to Fredericksburg to come down with a train of wounded, and I was unable to see him; but left Mr. Wood and Chaplain Conwell with "Mac," to take care of matters. Arriving at this place, was greatly perplexed by finding that the tug which towed down the Hoboken was a Government one, and had gone off on Government business. Further, that nothing would be left here at 10 A. M., Tuesday. The Washington, Hoboken, and Kennedy, with all our stores and employees, would, if I followed your instructions, be left without any certainty of removal; and though

I earnestly feel the necessity for pushing on, yet, in view of the probability that the Kent will be at Port Royal on Tuesday evening, and in view of the unexpected state of things here, I assumed the responsibility of providing for the barges and the agents who have worked so faithfully, fearful that assistance from Washington might arrive too late, as you did not know the change wrought in twelve hours.

Being unable to find Captain Pitkin, I consulted his assistant in reference to towing the barges to a safe place, where you could pick them up; but, first, he couldn't tell where a safe place was; second, Government had more than use for its tows; and, third, we might leave to-night. Afterwards finding Captain Pitkin, he asked me about our barges, and said he wanted one, but wouldn't take her off our hands, as his necessities were but for a few days. I requested him to accept the loan of the Washington as long as he wished it, and if he would put freight, not men, aboard, part of the Hoboken was at his disposal. "Good! that's the way to talk! I'll tow all your barges to Port Royal for you," was the reply. I then, feeling that it was the best, though we may not need all the barges at Port Royal, handed over the Washington and Hoboken. The Rapley had already towed the Hoboken out beyond the gunboats, and was making for the upper wharf after the Washington, when Captain Pitkin ordered a little tug to countermand my order, which the little tug vainly supposed it could do by shooting off its shrill little whistle in all imaginable and non-imaginable manners. In the mean time, Captain Harris arrived, and accepted an appointment as superintendent of land transportation. I placed him in full charge of the trains, empowering him to appoint such assistants, and establish such regulations, as he may deem expedient. It will be his duty to take supplies from the water base, and to forward them to such point, or points, as may be conveniently reached by the Auxiliary and Relief Corps. He reported that his train of twenty-eight, I think, wagons was ready to start with supplies for Fredericksburg; also, that three horses and two wagons were unable to stand the trip; that every thing at his camp was removed, except some water casks. I ran up with the Rapley to take the wagons and horses on board; but finding Captain Strickland, Quartermaster, in charge, for whom Captain Pitkin had procured the Washington from me, and learning that he was sending stock to Washington, requested him to take ours along, which he promptly agreed to do. The last load of tents from Harris Camp was brought aboard the Rapley by Mr. Whitteley, in the small boat Quinta, and we pulled for the lower wharf. Every thing had been gotten aboard, except the

tent loaned to General Abercrombie, and one to the telegraph operators. As Mr. Williams had spoken to the General, I did not think it advisable to bother him again. Leaving Whitteley and Freeman in charge of the Kennedy, together with Mrs. Spencer's men and our own laborers, Mr. Williams took aboard his corps, and we ran up the Aquia. I had been informed by Captain Clark that nothing was safe there long, and was in the act of pulling down Clappitt's tents, when I heard you asking questions about it. Clappitt was put aboard your tug, Governor Curtin. After you left, we were detained some time by a piece of old pile which got jammed between the arms of the port wheel and the hull; and, as we lay within hailing distance, were yelled at by some body, to the effect that fifteen hundred wounded would come down by railroad, and would need feeding. Fearing that there might be as many thousands at Port Royal awaiting us, and having been told by the surgeon that they were not suffering in the slightest, as you remember, I replied that you would be back in an hour on the tug; that our "small issue" barge was at Belle Plain, and that you would get them every thing they could possibly need. So soon as the wheel was cleared, we steamed off for the head of Kettle Bottom Shoals, and tied to a schooner, it being impossible for us to pass the shoals at night. Several barges were there, and by 12 o'clock all hands were asleep. Mr. Williams and I spent the evening in discussing our work and digesting details. We have twenty-six Sanitary Commission people aboard, and twenty-one of a crew. It is hard to tell which party has been worked the hardest; and the "human form divine" may be seen sprawled, knotted, and almost dangling on and from decks, boxes, bales of straw, and guards. They need it, poor fellows, for they have worked gloriously. It wouldn't have been a remarkable surprise to have seen some body asleep on top of the smoke stack. For myself, I succeeded in gaining a skylight for a pillow. The cabin was surrendered to Mrs. Spencer. To-day, Tuesday, May 24, we got away at 4.30; at 1, had Point Lookout abeam; and now, 3 P. M., are heading for the Rappahannock. Fortunately the bay is comparatively smooth, though there are some pale faces, and we are making a good run.

I have appointed Mr. Williams, General Superintendent of the work of the Sanitary Commission, at the water base on the Rappahannock, and Mr. Thompson, Superintendent of Special Relief at the water base—designing in case Mr. Fay should be with us there, to place Mr. T. under his orders, and in case he should not, to have Mr. T. supervise, and be responsible for the feeding of the wounded. He is authorized to appoint such assistants

and secure such aid as may be found necessary; and will be kept near at hand to us, ready for emergencies. He has selected nineteen of the force abroad, eleven to aid with himself, and the rest to be with Mrs. Spencer, who is under his charge. My plan is to divide the work into appropriate departments—place a reliable man at the head of each, and while giving him every facility possible, yet hold him responsible for the work. Accordingly, Mr. T. is directed to be able to detail at any moment, a captain, who can break in new men, and run a new squad. He is also directed to report semi-weekly all the facts and incidents of his department. He estimates that he fed 22,000 at Belle Plain. I have requested him to write up a report of that work. I shall, so far as possible, secure full reports from the various agents, in order that you may know what we are about.

About 4.30 P.M., we rounded the guardship at the mouth of the Rappahannock, and were ordered to anchor and await a convoy. The Medical Purveyor's tug was close by, and a Sanitary Commission pennant was fluttering from the Kent, alongside of which we anchored. Mr. Clark came aboard to report—I showed him my instructions; he had arrived Tuesday 24th, at 11 A. M., and received similar orders from the gunboats. Boarding her I found her tonnage to be 260; her invoice admirably selected and full; Mr. Clark in charge, with Capt. Gofts, as Quartermaster; Mr. Beck and Mr. Swan, as assistants, together with a crew of seventeen men—charter, \$225. The saukrant schooner had received orders to make sail from Fort Monroe for Rappahannock. She had not arrived, nor had any of our barges, but, doubtless, would obey her instructions, and anchor till further orders. I shall probably dispatch the tug Curtin for her, after the Kennedy is landed at Port Royal.

WEDNESDAY, May 25, 1864.

Obedient orders from the gunboat, we were under weigh at 5 A. M., with quite a respectable fleet of transports and tows, the gunboat Dragon acting as convoy. The river is broad, water good, and banks fringed with green foliage, which also acts as a beautiful frame to the occasional white farm-houses. About 8, the gunboat stopped to wait for the rest of the fleet, and the Rapley and Kent followed in the wake of a large transport sea propeller. The City of Albany is far ahead of the transport. I have had certain persons selected as suitable men to place on transports returning with wounded; and also, a table of supplies, calculated for one hundred men for one day. Should emergencies arise, we can speedily determine from the number of patients and their destination, the

amount and kind of stores to be put on board, and the agent to go with them. On arrival, unless affairs at Port Royal change the decision, I shall have the cargo of the Rapley discharged into the Kent, retain the Kent until the barge arrives, and send back the Rapley in charge of Mr. Clark. Will most probably place Mr. Beck in charge of the Kent, and Mr. Swan as his assistant. Purpose to retain the Kent until the barge arrives, and then dispatch her, unless there is a great demand. I can't keep feeling apprehensive, and yet I agreed with Harris that, so far as we could tell, the Fredericksburg route was the safest and speediest. That Harris is a noble man. At 11 A. M., passed Rappahannock village. Some negroes waving handkerchiefs; the gunboats will probably pick them up. 4 P. M.,—are just rounding into Port Royal; have passed one of the most elegant houses on the South shore. Some ladies and a couple of gentlemen sitting on the veranda, waved handkerchiefs to them, "which, they didn't see it," as Artemus Ward remarks. Plenty of contrabands have welcomed us at many points, but no white people. Several vessels are lying at Port Royal, gunboats among others. Have passed some elegant places for guerrillas, but fortunately without disturbance. State of Maine just gone with wounded, saluted us. On arrival, directed Mr. Clark to lower his boat and visit the steamers in port, to see what ones would grant us transports, and what ones would need supplies. At the same time I took the Juniata, which we had towed from Belle Plain, and nailing a crutch, with a Sanitary Commission flag to her, put out to Port Royal in search of our men. Getting no trace, I crossed over the river, and proceeding to Gen. Abercrombie's headquarters, informed him of our arrival and desire to facilitate matters.

Learned from him that a train of wounded would likely arrive during the evening. Re-crossed the river; and, by the way, it was pouring rain all the afternoon and night. I succeeded in finding Dr. Cuyler, on a search for houses suitable for hospitals. He greeted us most cordially. We arrived an hour before his barges, and about an hour after General Abercrombie—long before his train was in. Dr. Cuyler asked me what we wanted, and, of course, we preferred a house, whereupon he assigned one to us; but finding from his staff, (Captains Pitkin and Clark,) that there is no probability at present of our remaining longer than four or five days, I have not yet used it.

On returning to the wharf, I met Mr. Lo Baron, who had left Fredericksburg Tuesday evening, bringing a note to you from Mr. Fay, requesting that the Rapley be sent up to bring our agents off. Coming aboard, I directed Mr. Thompson to tak

ashore his corps, and proper material for feeding six hundred wounded about to arrive. Pulling to Captain Hookiss's gunboat, on which Mr. Le Baron had come down, had quite a talk with Captain H., and learned that the Weems would probably go up to-night. Returned, relieved Mr. Clark, and directed him to turn over the Kent to Mr. Williams. Requested Mr. Williams to proceed with her in the wake of the Weems, and, under convoy, to Fredericksburg. Wrote to Captain Harris and Dr. Douglas. Sent the Kent instead of the Rapley, because, first, she is larger, and is not so crowded with stores; second, has more coal; and, third, runs fast.

Captain Harris had arrived at Fredericksburg Tuesday, 10 or 11 A. M., and I am greatly perplexed to know what he ought to do. I think he had better come here, unless he has pushed on to Millford. I went ashore in hopes of finding him, and tramped all around the country. Thompson had got an old house; and lanterns, buckets of coffee and crackers were constantly accompanying pairs of legs in and out.

On the hearth was a bright fire of wood and a brighter fire of womanhood, both of them boiling coffee and dispensing cheerfulness.

The wounded were in army wagons, and had come from a point a mile and a half beyond the North Anna River, a ride of thirty miles. They had had nothing to eat, by their report, for some time.

Mr. Bloor came with the train. They were thoroughly fed, our men being at work until 3 A. M.

THURSDAY, May 26.

Kent sailed for Fredericksburg, in charge of Mr. Williams, at 5 A. M. Six hundred more wounded had arrived.

We have given out two thousand six hundred meals. At 12, seventy-five ambulances are reported as expected. We are all worked terribly. I pray that some of them may come from Fredericksburg to-night.

Dr. Caylor wishes to supply us with stove, cauldrons, bread, &c. I accepted. Got a guard to bury six men who had died *en route*. Commissary is not issuing. Have had to supply Captain Pitkin and several quartermasters with food, also gunboats. Your dispatch is received. Curtin not arrived; when she does, will send the schooner back. You had better have a steamer, with cargo, anchored at mouth of York River, to go up as soon as White House is garrisoned. Appearances may change, but at present nothing indicates a week's delay here.

By midnight we will have given four thousand six hundred meals.

Key Port and Lizzie Baker just arrived from Fredericksburg; but no transports here to take off their wounded.

In great haste, yours,

J. A. ANDERSON.

N. B.—Hurriedly written to catch the mail.
COPYIST.

GENERAL BANKS'S ARMY.

Dr. Crane writes from New Orleans, April 29:

Since writing you on the 22d inst., little has occurred here of interest. I have received from the front four letters—two from Mitchell dated on the 21st inst., one from Mitchell and one from Stevens dated on the 26th. These four letters I now enclose to you.

Mr. Chadwick, agent for the Cincinnati Branch, returned from Alexandria to-day. He gives good accounts of the work done by our agents. I shall send up to-morrow by Mr. Edgerly a pretty large supply of vegetables, dried fruit, &c., for general distribution in camp.

Mitchell, Stevens, Barnard, Foote, Miller, Hildreth and Reynolds, are at Alexandria. Edgerly goes on the Laurel Hill. Grant and Kimball are in the storehouse. Furniss attends to securing transportation, &c., &c. Boltwood is now in the storehouse awaiting transportation to Pensacola. The condition of the refugees at that station—women and helpless children—who have come within our lines, demands immediate attention. Gen. Asboth has written to me about it, and I have directed Mr. Boltwood to proceed to Pensacola and investigate the matter.

I have written somewhat at length about the subject to Dr. Jenkins. It is an important one, and I hope the Commission will feel it to be their duty to act upon it directly.

The Tempest has arrived, and we have been receiving her cargo to-day. The invoice is a splendid one; it measurably fills the great gap created by the recent run upon our stores.

The net result of the recent benefit and subscription list in our behalf was \$2,052.25.

I send you a copy of the *Era* of the 26th inst., which will give you the former statement.

The weather is now quite hot and summer is in, and the demands for ice are frequent. It can be obtained in this city for 1½ cents per lb., delivered in quantities to suit. Should a shipment be considered desirable there will be no difficulty in obtaining an ice-house.

The accounts from the Red River are sad enough. Mr. Mitchell, writing from Alexandria, April 21, says:

As Mr. Foote was unwell, I concluded to send Mr. Chadwick with a large supply of stores to the front to communicate and act with Messrs. Stevens and Barnard. Yesterday I sent up to the Rapids, on teams

for transportation to the army, a large quantity of potatoes, pickles, lemons, claret, condensed milk, beef stout, farina, bandages and other field supplies, which I knew would be needed in view of the abandonment and legitimate consumption of medical supplies during the two days' fight. In the evening, much to our annoyance, we received information that no stores would be sent forward until further orders. A boat loaded with commissary stores returned to the Falls still loaded, and it soon became quite evident that the intention of our commanders is to return at least as far as this point. The troops here were under arms until 4 A. M. to-day, and the Superior has just arrived here, having been fired into at Bayou Sara and 15 miles below this place, with artillery, killing two men of the 3d R. I. Cavalry and wounding sixteen.

The gunboats, numbering some twenty in all, with many of our large transports, will be unable to cross the Falls from above. The Navy I propose to look after, and to issue to it a large portion of our stores at the Rapids, which they may stand in need of, and which we cannot get to the army.

The potatoes by the Chateau are just unloaded to-day. I will issue them to-morrow to hospitals and troops. Have heard nothing from Stevens or Barnard. Foote is sick. Chadwick is under orders to communicate with Stevens with stores, but, as I have explained, is unable to. I will retain him to assist at the storehouse until Mr. Foote is able to take charge. "Philip," "Jim" and "Charlie," are all kept busy. I have had not an hour unoccupied in daylight as yet, and this fact must apologize for my hurried and disconnected communications.

On the 26th, he adds:

Thanks to the courtesy of Capt. Welch, Quartermaster at this point, I turned over to him for transportation to Mr. Stevens, at Grand Ecore, a large amount of all kinds of hospital stores, potatoes, lemons, milk, farina, corn starch, sugar, ice, tobacco, pipes, clothing, &c., &c. All these were sent above the Falls on Friday, 23d inst. Mr. Chadwick was to have gone up with them, and to have aided Mr. Stevens in the distribution; he was also to have communicated with Mr. Barnard, to whom I sent word to return, that he might assist at this point.

On the evening of the 22d Capt. Welch told me that he had orders to send no more boats up the river. This, we concluded, meant that the army was to return. On the morning of the 23d I sent Mr. Chadwick to the Falls to distribute such of our stores to the gunboats at that point as they might need. He was prevented from accomplishing this, as the stores were sent

back to me before he arrived there. Mr. Chadwick, however, succeeded in rendering aid to the 550 sick on board the Ewing, by distributing stores brought back for want of transportation by Mr. Barnard. Mr. Barnard was already on board, hard at work and faithful to his mission.

On the 24th inst, we were all busy in looking after the sick on the Ewing, the wants of the hospitals, and the various calls made on us by the detachments of sick on board some seven transports, sent down from Gen. Smith's fleet. We also issued to every company of Gen. Grover's command half a barrel of potatoes, for which we were often thanked.

The convalescent men on board the seven transports were sent to the Rest, where Mr. Reynolds was kept continually busy in providing them meals. Mr. Reynolds has had probably as many as 200 boarders at the Rest.

On board the Ewing, Mr. Barnard and Mr. Chadwick have worked incessantly. The ——— had made no provision for feeding his men. Philip made some 20 gallons of corn starch, and this, with cherry wine, crackers and claret punch, has been served out at every meal to all the men on board.

This morning the surgeon went with me to the Commissary's, where I drew full rations of fresh beef, potatoes, rice, flour, &c., &c. With Mr. Chadwick's assistance we set up a hospital cook-stove, lying unused on board, and having selected convalescent men on board, set them to work to prepare a good soup for all on board.

Yesterday morning Gen. Banks and staff rode in. Soon the army was coming in, and Mr. Stevens reported.

The Red Chief soon after came down, with a number of wounded on board, and then again all hands went at work. We gave to every man on board ice-cream punch or brandy and water and soft crackers, before they were removed to the hospital. Mr. Mudge, of the Christian Commission, did valuable service, in washing and dressing the sore and sick men on board the Ewing. He is a good practical worker, and recognizes the need of administering physical comforts before spiritual exhortations to men suffering from empty stomachs and dusty persons.

To-day the army is all back here, having had to fight its way through a force at Caney River, while its rear was compelled to repulse continuous attacks. It was in a hazardous position, and we all thank God and Gen. Smith that it is here in comparative safety. It is said there was fighting near here this morning, and as I write I hear the booming of distant reports of artillery. There is also a small force of rebels opposite us at Pineville; last night the gunboats here punished their audacity

by shelling them and killing a small number. What movement will next take place no one seems to know, although the general impression is that we will leave for New Orleans. We still have some supplies, but can use all you can send us.

Mr. Stevens was with the army during the retreat, and gives the following account of his operations during the march:

Your favor of 13th inst. was received upon my arrival at this place yesterday. During my stay at Grand Ecore I received from Mr. Mitchell two loads of supplies, and have been in direct communication with him since, as you suggest in your letter. My last to the office was dated the 15th inst. The next day I sent supplies per flag of truce to our wounded left behind at Mt. Pleasant, and made some other distribution to our forces around me, but being under marching orders, could not do much. On the 21st Gen. Smith took possession of Natchitoches, and next day at 5 P. M. we started on our retreat. On account of the burning of several houses the enemy must have been made aware of our movements, for they were soon pressing Gen. Smith in his rear. At the last crossing of Cane River, upon some high bluffs which commanded a wide range of country, we found seven or eight guns planted, thus menacing us in front and rear at the same time. Smith drove them back, while Gen. Berge, crossing the river and making quite a detour, took them by surprise, driving them away from their strong position. Our loss was about one hundred and fifty wounded. These were brought over and cared for, keeping us at work all night. I had a box packed with those things necessary and taken to the hospital, thus being ready before the wounded came in. The next morning, the enemy still pursuing, we hurried the men into ambulances and passed the river, stopping all night at Henderson's Hill, and arriving here yesterday about noon.

I found the Commission hard at work, and many are the words of praise I have heard from men and officers as well as surgeons. The men seemed to be astonished that the Commission could "come clear up here."

No one can tell how long we may remain here, or that "the object of the expedition is accomplished." The whole affair has been sad enough.

It would seem from the following from Mr. Mitchell that the Union still has some friends left even in Western Louisiana:

I have the gratification of acknowledging to you the receipt from William D. Primer, Esq., of Alexandria, La., of four gallons domestic wine, and through the

Rev. Thomas Bacon, D. D., of the same place, the amount of the Easter contribution, viz., \$14.20.

This, for a place not six weeks in our possession, encourages the hope that Unionism, genuine and devoted, still breathes at the South, smothered though it may be for a time by the strong hand of military despotism. The numerous enlistments in the "Louisiana Scouts," commonly called "bushwhackers," indicates clearly that there are many men, who, having opposed this despotism as far as they were able unaided, are ready to fight for the Union, now that they have a support on which they can rally with confidence.

OUR OPERATIONS AT BELLE PLAIN.

The following reports contain a number of interesting details of our operations during General Grant's "Eight Days":

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1864.

DR. F. JENKINS,
General Secretary, &c., &c.:

DEAR SIR—I sent you a telegram this morning giving you a general summary. Yesterday we ran up to Agnia Creek and pitched our tents, for a relief station, near the old spot where a year ago we had our station for feeding the wounded. We left supplies there with five relief agents. The train went up to Falmouth at 4½ P. M., and it was thought that the cars might bring back the wounded.

Returning to Belle Plain, we found that in our absence of four hours, information had been received which indicated a speedy removal of medical quartermaster and commissary stores from Belle Plain to Port Royal, on the Rappahannock. We made our arrangements accordingly, leaving stores enough only at the upper wharf to load the trains of thirty wagons which will be there to-day for their last trip to be made to Fredericksburg.

The balance of stores upon the shore, together with the tents and material used at the feeding station, &c., &c., are loaded on the barges to-day—provision still being made at the former relief station to feed any wounded who, by chance, may yet come in that way. Judging it important to make arrangements for another boat beside the Rapley, I came up last evening with Mr. Anderson, and have to-day found, by telegram, that the Kent is at Norfolk, well stored, still, after having supplied our boat on James River, the Thompson, which came down for stores a day or two since. I have ordered the Kent, with the schooner in tow, loaded with anti-scorbutic supplies, to go at once to Port Royal. After we arrived last night, at 1 A. M., the Rapley was coaled and loaded, and at daylight this

morning she started for the base. This afternoon I go down on a tugboat, Gov. Curtin, which I have chartered for as long a term as we need her. After supplying the demands at Aquia Creek for Fredericksburg, the tug will take one of the barges, the Kennedy, with her stores, to Port Royal. The Kennedy is the barge which has been at the wharf at Belle Plain, near the Medical Purveyor's boat, and which has been headquarters for the agents of the Commission while there, and also a distributing station. I should have sent this barge off early this morning, except for the fact that we had promised to receive from soldiers stationed in the vicinity, passing through Belle Plain, such valises and little packages as they found themselves unable to carry, or which they wished to deposit in a safe spot before going into battle—and so we wanted to let this storehouse remain till the last moment. I may just mention here, that during the past two days the aggregate of these packages and bundles which we have thus taken charge of, and which, in most cases, would have been simply abandoned—the men unable to march carrying the load—amounted to not less than twenty tons. Straight through the day and night there was one unbroken stream of men bringing what they wished to preserve. But to-night the barge, which had been such a comfortable home at Belle Plain, and which, beside our own agents, has "slept and fed" at least two hundred other State and local relief agents and those seeking wounded friends—to-night the barge goes for its new wharf at Port Royal. The relief agents who have fed the wounded as they arrived from Fredericksburg, will go on with the barge, and be ready to continue their work on the other river bank. It cannot be a more lovely spot than that where our tents and little frame house clustered under the great tulip tree all full of flowers, and covered with that enormous growth of vine. Mr. Anderson will take charge for the present at Port Royal of the work of receiving and forwarding our supplies, and establishing the stations for feeding the wounded as they come in by ambulance. Mr. Anderson's energy and wise judgment, united to a generous humanity and religious purpose, make him just the kind of man we want for that work.

The agents of the little feeding station at White Oak Church will fall back into Fredericksburg. You have no idea of the amount of comfort and relief which have been given at the rough-looking station during the past three days. Being half way between Fredericksburg and Belle Plain, all the slightly wounded who are sent on to walk down, getting, of course, much exhausted, have found here, in food and drink and a place to rest for a half hour, just the help which gave them strength to go on.

Captain Harris will take charge of the transportation wagons and get them over to Port Royal, except those needed for a while between Falmouth depot and Fredericksburg hospitals.

If we can get the Elizabeth, with her large capacity for storage, I propose to load her and let her take the place of the Kent, which, though large, is not conveniently arranged for carrying supplies.

The barge Hoboken will be left at Aquia Creek until we learn what the needs are there.

Truly yours, &c., &c.,

FRED. N. KNAPP,

Associate Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14, 1864.

TO F. N. KNAPP, Esq.,

Associate Secretary, &c.:

SIR—A brief report of some of the past week's work may serve as a record of what should not be forgotten.

Under your direction, I went to the Army of the Potomac on Saturday, April 30; visited the station at Brandy and the headquarters of the army, for such suggestions from the Provost Marshal General as might guide your work on the eve of battle.

These were fully communicated to the Board in session here, on my return, May 3. Every thing was in readiness to proceed at once to the scene upon the first news of battle.

On Sunday, at noon, having the only pass then issued, I proceeded on your order to Alexandria, with hospital supplies for Rappahannock Station. These were at once taken on board a train for the front, in charge of a band of fifteen nurses and attendants, under the orders of Surgeon Mitchell, in charge of the Cavalry Corps Hospital, who received me into his company.

Milk pnnch in bottles, crackers, soft bread, and coffee were prepared, in the hope of being able to supply them to the in-coming wounded and sick upon the train from the rear of the army.

We waited in the cars, hour after hour, for the signal to go forward, and I kept you constantly advised of the state of affairs.

Meanwhile the Lodge at Alexandria was thronged, and all things in active and abundant preparation for the tide of suffering expected.

As soon as it was ascertained on Monday that no wounded were to come in by rail, that Belle Plain would probably be the new base, I so advised you by telegram; and as I was ordered to Washington on Tuesday morning, your steamer and a barge, both well laden, and bearing your own wagons and horses for independent transportation, were ready at an early hour to go forward,

and moved off as soon as the necessary passes could be obtained for the large band of helpers who had been held here in readiness.

We reached Belle Plain at twilight; were soon moored at the temporary wharf, and every appliance was in instant requisition. The separate bands of young men, under their several captains, were assigned to various tasks.

A large hospital tent was pitched under a venerable tree on shore, and the fires soon blazed under the camp kettles, filled with coffee. The large supply of lanterns were a Godsend to the officers engaged in exploring the crowds of wounded who had been all day streaming in, and during the entire night in guiding them on board the barges, serving as lighters to convey them to the transports in deep water in the offing. This service of the young men, under the order of Mr. Fay—in forming a line of lanterns, assisting the crippled soldiers to the boats, feeding them, and going with them on the barges and aiding in removal to the transports—was cordially accepted by the officers in charge; and, as the hospital tents of the medical officers were directly opposite the tent under the tree, much and very welcome assistance and solace was furnished to it, both to surgeons and sufferers.

During the night a train of ambulances was gotten into line, loaded with stimulants, and having on board a band of surgeons specially deputed from several States. The intense darkness, and the badness of the roads, as well as their unguarded condition, detained this train until dawn, and our young men supplied the surgeons with lanterns, bread and coffee.

Nearly all of us were at work during the entire night, and all rejoiced in the abundant opportunity afforded of hard and tiring service.

With the break of dawn, the horses and wagons were brought on shore from the barge, and the work of loading them with assorted stores for Fredericksburg pressed forward, under the care of Dr. Steiner and Mr. Fay.

About noon Mr. Fay left, with this train and a portion of our sixty helpers, for Fredericksburg, taking with them seven surgeons, and Mrs. Husband and Miss Gilson, who had come down with us upon the steamer to take up again their invaluable work in the new scenes of suffering at Fredericksburg.

The entire freight of your steamer, the *Mary Rapley*, was transferred to the barge, and the steamer dispatched for another cargo and barge load to Washington.

Meanwhile other tents had been pitched on shore, and one wagon assigned to carrying supplies to the workers in and around them; and during the entire day, (Wednes-

day,) the crowds of wounded, either on or in the baggage wagons now thronging in for army stores, left no intermission of labor, and menaced exhaustion both to supplies and workers.

Bands of volunteers from various localities cheerfully took work in harmony with your organizations, and, lifting at the stretcher, supporting the crippled soldiers to the boat, aiding to dispose his shattered form upon the deck, carrying bread and crackers and coffee, bathing his wounds or readjusting his bandages, served to redouble the efficiency of all your means of succor; while, on the one hand, the officers of Government both accepted cordially your services and added in many things to your material, especially in supply of bread, soft as well as hard. The members of the Christian Commission harmoniously co-operated in all your work.

From Wednesday morning to Friday morning, when helpless exhaustion compelled me to go on board the *Connecticut* and return to the city, seems now one unbroken interval, in which rest was scarce thought of, and the varied activities which I have described went on continuously—chief officers of the Commission arriving to work, and counsel, and direct—new cargoes unloading, new bands of workers coming in; and the barge, over which floated the flag of the Commission, moored in the very focus of activity, forming the rendezvous for information, consultation, and supply.

I cannot close this hasty record without making mention, with admiration and gratitude, of the urbane and cordial temper in which (amid the distractions of the scene,) the Medical Director in charge, (Colonel Cuyler,) and the medical officers under him, welcomed and seconded your service and promoted its efficiency.

Of the energy and decision, tempered with humane consideration, of Col. Cuyler, and of his unflagging labor by night and day, all will bear witness. It was every thing to us and to the wounded soldiers—unraveling intricacies and shedding sunshine over the scene. The action of the entire medical staff was in harmony with this example.

The laborious and responsible duties of quartermaster were in the hands of Capt. H. B. Lacy, temporarily detailed from G Street Wharf, Washington, for the difficult occasion; and there are few men in his department with the heart and energy and administrative skill which enabled Captain Lacy to crowd the work of a month into a week.

Yours,
J. V. VAN INOEN.

We have the following, also, from Mr. Abbott, in Washington, dated May 15:

Since my report of yesterday, three boats of wounded have arrived, viz.:

	Number.
Lizzie Baker.....	280
Connecticut.....	600
Utica.....	400

Total.....1,280

Three-fourths of the whole number were severely wounded, and at least one-sixth part were cases of amputation.

The men were in excellent spirits, for men so severely wounded. We supplied them abundantly with every thing they needed, until they could be comfortably placed in hospital, for which they were exceedingly thankful. We fed this morning a detachment of one hundred men from the 1st Regiment of Veteran Reserve Corps, who have been sent down to Belle Plain to guard prisoners. They were unexpectedly ordered away, and did not have time to prepare themselves any food. To-night I will try and furnish you a report of the work accomplished for the week.

A PRISONER'S TESTIMONY.

NEW YORK, May 2, 1864.

I was taken prisoner at the battle of Gettysburg, and spent over eight months in Libby Prison, Richmond.

During my stay there I had the best practical knowledge of the beneficial working of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

To their kind offices, I and hundreds of others are indebted for almost every particle of decent food and all the delicacies that we enjoyed. To them we are indebted for all the clothing and blankets which we received while in the prison, as also our books, papers, and other reading matter.

STEPHEN KOVÁČ,
Major 84th Regt., N. Y. V., Paroled Prisoner.

LETTER FROM DR. H. S. HEWITT.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF THE OHIO,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
MORGENTHAU, TENN., March 17, 1864.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at this point, of 80 barrels of potatoes and 33 barrels of kraut, for gratuitous distribution to the forces of this Department now in the field.

This supply is timely and valuable, in a very high degree, and will be cordially appreciated by our soldiers.

With very great respect,
H. S. HEWITT, Surg. U. S. V.,

Med. Director.

M. M. SETMOUR, Agent U. S. San. Com.

Disbursements in cash of the Commission during the month of May, \$262,898.77. This does not include supplies received in kind.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Read's reports to Dr. Newberry, from Chattanooga, gives the history of our operations with Sherman's army, down to May 18. Writing May 10th, he says:

Drs. Read, Seymour and Warren; Messrs. Hobbs, Bartlett, Brunditt, Fairchild, Tone, Hosford, Prindle, Murray, Crary, Place and Barrett, are at the front.

We have sent large supplies to Ringgold, and are now sending a car load a day to Tunnel Hill. Our line of communication with the front is complete, and we can have there all the teams we need or ask for. All we shall need now to have the work thoroughly done is a constant supply of stores. We have to guess how many of any kind we shall need. There was heavy skirmishing all day yesterday, and this morning orders have been sent to prepare for four thousand wounded in Chattanooga. Probably, a severe battle to-day. We telegraph as plainly as we are permitted to do. All our shirts, drawers and sheets, with the greater part of the rags and bandages have already gone to the front, beside the most of the concentrated milk, beef, tea, sugar, stimulants, &c.

We want all the milk and stimulants asked for, and a proportionate supply of clothing of all kinds for wounded men, large supply of dressings, a hundred barrels of crackers, two tons of butter—I deem this very important; five hundred pounds of green tea, a general supply of all farinaceous delicacies, a supply of flavoring extracts for the use of the ladies of the light diet kitchens, three or four thousand palm leaf fans; and, as there is, and can be no ice, a supply of tamarinds, and other articles for cooling drinks, with lemons and loaf sugar. Calculate on eight to ten thousand wounded, but I hope we shall not have so many. Every thing is yet uncertain, but we can scarcely fail of severe fighting.

Hospitals are established at Ringgold and Tunnel Hill, but we know nothing as to the numbers admitted.

Add bed-sacks to the above partial list, and consider it only a partial list, as we shall, probably, need every thing required to make wounded men comfortable.

And May 18th, after the battle of Resaca, we hear from him:

There is a lull in the battle. Our troops are marching on below the Resaca. They have taken two of the strongest places for defense in the world—Buzzard's Roost and Resaca. Our loss in wounded will be about 3,000. They were in all cases promptly attended to, their wounds dressed, and they themselves fed as soon as brought from the field; and in all corps, sanitary stores were ready for them, and in all but one in sufficient quantities. This one would have been supplied, had teams I obtained and sent with much labor, been loaded. This was a misfortune, but, as much the fault of the teamsters as of our agents. This corps had the fewest wounded, and so had less need of the stores.

The list of casualties has been perfected as far as possible on the field, and we have had a representative in every Division hospital.

The railroad bridge at Resnea is destroyed—will be re-built soon. Our policy is, to keep our goods, sufficient for the field, at the terminus of the road, and from that point we were to have transportation through the general supply train of the Medical Department. So far, I have obtained it much sooner than I could otherwise, by being on the field at the commencement of the battle. While the tents were being put up, I could obtain a Division team to goat once for sanitary stores, and they returned with them nearly as soon as the wounded of that day were brought in.

Dr. Thompson and his associates, were here just at the right time to see our work to advantage.

I say to all the agents of the Christian Commission, "You can have goods at any time, subject only to the rules required of our agents." And, although this gives them nothing more than they have always had, it puts it in such a form that they cannot object to us.

There were no goods on the field except ours, unless the Western Commission had some for McPherson's corps.

I return again at once to the front, and if my health permits—and I am better—shall remain there until the close of the campaign.

I commenced, feeling that the difficulties in obtaining transportation were so great that they could hardly be overcome. I found the Medical Director unusually kind, and more disposed than ever to aid us, and by hard work have succeeded much better than ever, in which you will rejoice with me.

Dr. Perin, the Medical Director of the Department of the Cumberland, has been relieved by request, but before leaving he sent the following testimonial to our agents:

MESSES. A. N. READ AND M. C. READ,

Agents U. S. Sanitary Commission:

GENTLEMEN—In leaving the Department of the Cumberland, I feel it but due to you that I place upon record my approbation of your conduct of the affairs of the Sanitary Commission during the period that I have served as Medical Director.

I will simply say that this judgment is based upon personal observation of the ability, zeal and energy that have characterized your labors.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. PERIN,

Surgeon U. S. A.

The following is a list of our shipments down the river from Cairo to Vicksburg, Memphis and New Orleans, from May 7 to May 16:

28 boxes (100 lbs. each.) codfish,
850 barrels potatoes,
165 barrels and 35 kegs pickles,
125 barrels crackers,
19 kegs butter,
5 barrels cornmeal,
7 boxes milk,
3 barrels eggs,
3 boxes pearl barley,
4 barrels cracked wheat.

Another large shipment to Vicksburg was to have been made on the 17th instant.

A CRY FOR HELP.

The Michigan Soldiers' Aid Society says: Will not each farmer's household pledge at least one barrel of potatoes or onions for the soldiers? If barrels are not conveniently obtained, send them in sacks; we will return them, if desired, and barrel the vegetables. These articles are pressingly wanted, but not these alone. We quote from the appeal of the Soldiers' Aid Society at Cleveland: "It is a significant fact that rags, cotton and linen pieces, and bandages, are just now demanded in large quantities. Will not all housekeepers, and others, lay aside for us the old cotton and linen that in the spring house-cleaning and re-arranging are sure to come to light? Pieces of any size will answer, only let them be clean and smooth, and rolled into bundles."

"NEWBORN WAIFS."

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.—Newborn and its surroundings is one complete vegetable garden. There are some fine gardens in town—that of Dr. Page, of the Sanitary Commission, is ahead of all competition. He has peas in full blossom and radishes, lettuce and asparagus ready for the table. His garden at the "Old Fifth" Camp is splendidly arranged, and will be very productive. He has arranged a "stealing patch"—a novel idea—where it is expected all soldiers will do their "lifting"—those who feel maliciously inclined can help themselves to green corn, watermelons, &c., and be entirely welcome. The soldiers will bless the doctor for giving them this opportunity to "help themselves," and "no questions asked."—*North Carolina Times*, April 27.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 8, 1864.

REV. F. KNAPP,

Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed please find \$20—being a part of the sum of \$100—which was sent to me by Mr. Goddard, our Consul General at Constantinople, at the instance of Mr. Emmanuel, who holds a subordinate post in the corps of officers attached to the office of the Consul General, which Mr. Emmanuel desires to have expended for the benefit of our sick soldiers.

It is proper that I should say that this sum of \$100 thus contributed by this foreigner, who, at his distant post, has seen nothing of the sufferings of our gallant boys, which are so familiar to you, is one-sixth of his annual compensation. Who, of our own countrymen, holding office under the Government, have done more?

Yours, always truly, G. J. ABBOTT.

If I can be of service during this coming week, when our wounded boys arrive, please send me word at the State Department.

SOLDIER'S GIFTS.

The following letters explain themselves:

CHARLES R. FORDICE,
Corr. Sec. San. Com., Cincinnati:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed please find draft on Wayne County Bank for one hundred dollars, being a donation from Lieut. Wm. Henderson, 9th Ohio Cavalry, to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. This Mr. Henderson enlisted as a private, and received the inclosed amount as his local township bounty, and he requests me to forward it as above, as he says he has seen so many evidences of the usefulness and good resulting from the efforts of the Commission, that he desires to aid in its good work. Will you please make me a written acknowledgment of the receipt of it, and oblige,

Respectfully,

D. ROBINSON, Jr.

WOOSTER O., May 10.

No. 1307 CHESTNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, May 14, 1864. }

To the Editor of the Sanitary Commission Bulletin:

DEAR SIR—Will you be kind enough to acknowledge, through the columns of your journal, the donation to the funds of the Commission of the sum of one hundred and fifty-one dollars, the amount of bounty and back pay due the estate of Samuel F. Bolton, deceased, late a sergeant in Co. H., 23d Regt., Penn. Vols., who died in action May 31, 1862. The claim was collected by this agency, for Joseph K. Bolton, Esq., of this city, the father of deceased, who generously gave it to the cause of our suffering soldiers. Such a gift certainly deserves of the Commission honorable mention.

Very respectfully yours,

W. N. ASHMAN,
Solicitor of War Claims Agency.

BACK PAY.

The following correspondence explains itself:

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 15, 1864. }

Prince Street Branch Hospital. }

Your kind letter of the 11th instant I have received, and I beg you accept my best thanks for your favor. Concerning my pay I have to state, that I have not my descriptive list, (that is to say, it is not at the office,) and that I do not expect the same, as in all probability I shall be well enough to join my regiment in about two or three weeks. Should I be mustered on the hospital pay-roll, it is very likely that I am gone before the paymaster comes round to pay off the hospitals, which he generally does between the 10th and 15th of the month—not being then here, and not being mustered on the regimental pay-roll, I cannot draw my pay then, and, so you will perceive, how it comes that men have due to them their pay sometimes for six months. Now, if I am not asking too much of your kindness, please see the Paymaster, Major Webb, and ascertain if I can come to Washington and draw my pay and bounty. At the same time, I would ask you to procure for me the necessary permission to visit Washington.

Before concluding my letter, let me express to you the high admiration I entertain of this noble institution of yours. I have seen many armies of the European Continent, have served myself in the Polish and French Armies in Algiers, and I

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wish to God there would be only a shade of a like society, caring for the poor soldier like a mother only would do for her children, shielding soldiers from imposture and helping them along in almost any conceivable way.

Great as the American nation is, it brings forth only great things. Great, beyond comparison, is this unholy war; great, without parallel, the sacrifice and sufferings of the people, and great the noble institution of the Sanitary Commission, which I pray to God may prosper and accomplish their great and laudable designs.

Accept the assurance of my highest esteem and respect, in which I remain

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WERNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1864.

MR. JOHN WERNER,
C. C., 54 N. J. Ave.,
Prince Street Hospital, Alex., Va.:

SIR—Your letter in regard to your back pay is received. I have been to Major Webb, and he says that you are mastered all right for your pay and bounty, and that if you will come to his office he will pay you.

I have no doubt but that your surgeon will give you a pass to come for it on showing him this letter.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. ABBOTT.

A COMPLETE EXAMPLE OF SANITARY SCIENCE PRACTICALLY APPLIED IN CAMPS AND HOSPITALS.

"That the prevention of disease is possible, but its suppression difficult and uncertain," was the very first postulate laid down by the U. S. Sanitary Commission at the commencement of its labors. Acting upon this principle by most practical methods, and with an unflinching determination not to be thwarted in the purpose to insure for the soldiers in camp and in hospital all the means of sanitary protection which the combined intelligence and liberality of the Government and the people could apply, the results are such as will forever be remembered with gratitude by our people and by the philanthropic minds of every country.

The first complete example of practical application of sanitary science in camps and hospitals, during a long war, is now being wrought out in our Federal army. But Great Britain, in the recent campaign of its army in China, has furnished a very instructive illustration of the life-

* General Instructions for Camp Inspectors; Sanitary Commission, Document 51.

A writer in the *North American Review* states that, "In the Mexican war our volunteer forces lost, from disease alone, at the rate of 152 per 1,000 per annum, and the regulars at the rate of 84, from the same cause. In Wellington's entire campaign in the Peninsula, his losses from disease were 113 per 1,000 strength. In time of peace, our regular army lost annually at the rate of 36 per 1,000 strength; and the British infantry, serving at home, annually lost about 18 per 1,000 from disease, until Lord Herbert's great reforms were instituted; but by those reforms, which mainly consist in supplying fresh air and an improved diet, the annual loss is reduced to about 8½ per 1,000 strength; and the entire loss in the British army during the past four years, from all diseases, is less than the annual loss previously from disease of the lungs only." (See *North American Review*, April, 1864.)

saving power of the improved sanitary system that has been established in the British force since the Crimean campaign, and we cannot more forcibly illustrate the practical value of that improved system than by quoting statements from Miss Nightingale's tribute to Sir Sidney Herbert's administration and the reform that he officially ordered. She presents the statistical evidence that even during the first three years' experience of that reform, viz., 1855, 1856, and 1857, the mortality among the "infantry of the line serving at home" was diminished from 17.90 deaths to 1,000 living, to 8.56 to the 1,000, which is less than half the standard death rate previous to the reform.* Truly does Miss Nightingale remark, that the "faithful records of all wars are records of preventable suffering, disease and death. It is needless to illustrate this truth, for we all know it. But it is only from our latest sorrow, the Crimean catastrophe, that dates the rise of any sanitary administration in this country." [Great Britain.]

The latest returns of sickness and mortality in the British forces, at those permanent stations abroad where the losses have always been quite uniform, present to us the most remarkable results, confirming all that Lord Herbert, Miss Nightingale, and the advocates of sanitary reform ever claimed, and proving that the work and purpose of the Sanitary Commission of our army are based upon soundest reasoning and the most philanthropic designs. We quote the following illustration of the latest results of life-saving in the British army by means of simple sanitary improvements in camps, barracks, hospitals, and the care of troops:

"The last official returns of sickness and mortality among the British forces present the best argument upon this subject. In Jamaica, the death rate from disease has fallen, since the recent reform was carried into effect, from 260 per 1,000 to 20; in Trinidad, from 106 to 0 (in 1860); in Barbadoes, from 58 to 6; in St. Lucia, from 123 to 1; in British Guiana, from 74 to 6; in Canada, from 16 to 10; in Nova Scotia, from 15 to 7; in Newfoundland, from 11 to 4; in Bermuda, from 28 to 8; in Gibraltar, from 11 to 7; in Malta, from 15 to 10; in Ionis, from 15 to 7."

Here we see the mortality reduced, at ten military stations, from 70.5 to the 1,000 living, to 6.9. Let us now look at a summary of the results of the British Sanitary Commission's work in the Crimea during the years 1855-6.

For the following brief synopsis of the results of the operations of the British Sanitary Commission in the Crimea, we are indebted to a member of the United States Sanitary Commission.

The following tables exhibit the total and comparative statistics of sickness and mortality in the British army in the Crimean campaign, and the rate per cent. of the diseases and deaths of all the forces, for first, a period of six months just previous to, and at the commencement of the works of the Sanitary Commission, viz.: from January to June, 1855; and, second, a period of six months, from January to June, 1856, after those works for sanitary improvement had produced their legitimate results. [All sickness and deaths in the Medical Staff,

among Commissioned Officers, the Land Transport, and the Mounted Corps, as well as all martial wounds or deaths in battle, are excluded from these tables; also nearly 5,000 cases of sickness that failed to be properly registered during the early period of the campaign.]

Return showing total sickness and mortality from disease in British Army in the East, from April 10th, 1854, to July 1st, 1856.

NUMBER OF CASES OF SICKNESS.		DEATHS.
From Fevers	31,250	3,452
" Diseases of Lungs	12,252	644
" Bowels	65,745	8,930
" Cholera	7,574	4,502
" Scoury	2,660	178
" Ophthalmia	3,301
" Ulcers and Boils	12,542	37
" All other diseases	57,553	3,295
Total number cases ..	162,473	18,056

The rate per cent. of the entire army—sick and dying from disease—during two periods of six months each, as above stated.

	1855.		1856.	
	Rate per cent. sick.	Rate per cent. deaths.	Rate per cent. sick.	Rate per cent. deaths.
January	34.8	9.78	9.3	—18
February	23.0	8.16	7.7	—06
March	19.3	4.68	8.1	—09
April	14.3	1.86	7.0	—07
May	16.2	1.69	6.0	—06
June	28.3	2.63	3.6	—02
Total	136.9	28.82	41.7	—5 *

Thus the fact is demonstrated, by the most unerring statistics, that during the period beginning eight months after the commencement of reforms by the Sanitary Commission in the Crimea, the sickness in the army was reduced to less than one-third of that which prevailed until those reforms were inaugurated, the exact ratio of that decrease being as 1,359 to 417, or 139-453! While the mortality—which is the more significant test of the utility of sanitary improvements—presents the marvelous contrast of 28.82 to —.5, or 5,364 to 100!! i. e., the rate of mortality from disease in the army, after the work of sanitary reform had been fully inaugurated, was less than one fifty-seventh of the rate of mortality that prevailed during the same length of time preceding the reform.

It is worthy the remark, that, while the statistics show that considerable sickness continued to prevail during the latter or improved period, the records of the army hospitals exhibit the fact that the particular diseases that were most remarkably diminished were those which sanitary measures are known to prevent or greatly diminish, viz., the zymotic diseases, such as fevers, and those

* This (—5) shows that the mortality during those last six months was only half of one per cent., or at the rate of exactly one per cent. per annum, which would give ten deaths to every 1,000 men in service.

* See *North American Review*, April, 1864. † *Id.*

maladies that are so largely represented in the list given in the foregoing table.

That this wonderful improvement in health, which was the salvation of the British forces in the Crimea, was directly and positively dependent upon *sanitary works and preventive hygienic measures*, is a fact confessed alike by the military and medical officers of those forces.

And in further corroboration of that fact, it should be stated that while the British troops were thus being rescued from the fatal disease that had threatened to make their encampment a Golgotha, the French camps, though located more favorably, and within a rifle's range of the British, continued to grow more and more sickly during all the time of the grand improvement in the camps of their allies. In the latter, the best sanitary board, while in the former (the French camps) such regulations were utterly neglected, "until," as a distinguished historian of the war has said, "with the French army, peace became a military necessity."

The Crimean Sanitary Commission consisted of three gentlemen, viz., Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Milroy, and Mr. Rawlenson, a civil engineer. Each of these commissioners had, for several years, made sanitary science and its applications a special study. They proceeded to the Crimea in April, 1855, taking with them upwards of thirty skilled assistants and laborers, together with such implements and apparatus as they knew would be required in the ventilation and sewerage of hospitals and barracks, the cleansing and drainage of encampments, and the purification and disinfection of transports and ships. Among these means were pipe tubing, drainage pipes, filters, ten thousand square feet of perforated zinc plates for ventilation, hinges, pulleys, window fixtures, a ship load of peat charcoal, &c., &c. Immediately upon arrival on the Bosphorus and in the Crimea, the sanitary works were commenced; first, by thorough cleansing, both within and without, the hospitals, barracks, and tents, and in these works nearly one hundred men were employed for many months; old sewers were cleaned and flushed; new drains were made; surface filth, refuse, and decaying materials by thousands of cartloads, were removed, and such sources of offense as could not be removed were deeply covered with dry earth and peat charcoal. Water courses, springs, and the water supply were cleansed and controlled; the tents and camping grounds were rigidly inspected and purified, and an abundant supply of fresh air and pure water was every where secured in hospital and in camp, and, so far as practicable, the diet and general comfort of the soldiers were improved.

The results of this simple and inexpensive labor astonished the world, though sanitary science has always promised, and its advocates prophesied just such results.

Says Miss Nightingale: "It is the whole experiment of sanitary improvement upon a colossal scale.

We had, in the first seven months of the Crimean campaign, a mortality of sixty per cent. per annum among the troops from disease alone; we had in the last six months a mortality not much greater than among our healthy Guards at home."—From *Narrative Sanitary Commission, Appendix E.*

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Of the magnitude of this work some idea may be formed from the following "Summary of the Superintendent's Report," which was presented at the late meeting of the Commission in Washington:

Number of hospitals now reporting.....	88
Number of regiments reported.....	968
Number of names on record.....	360,069
Whole number of inquiries.....	10,984
Whole number of successful returns.....	7,523
Number of personal inquiries answered.....	6,111
Number of inquiries by letter.....	2,231
Number of inquiries by letter answered.....	1,412
Number of letters written regarding inquiries.....	5,081

These regiments are distributed among twenty-five States, beside twenty-nine from the Regular Army. There are, also, about three hundred and fifty names from Colorado, twenty-five hundred from the Navy, and thirty-five hundred of the rebels upon the books of the Directory.

It would be impossible to estimate the amount of comfort which the establishment of this source of information has given to the friends of the soldier left at home, uncertain of his fate.

THE SITUATION IN THE WEST.

Our readers will, perhaps, not be displeased to have us give them a brief summary of the recent progress and present condition of our work in all parts of the field. In no other way can they get a clear idea of the state of the great enterprise in which, probably, the most of them are taking an active part. We therefore present for their consideration an outline sketch of the present attitude of our sanitary affairs; referring all those who have sufficient interest in the subject to lead them to pursue it further, to the detailed reports of geographical districts or departments of our work, which will be published hereafter.

Let us premise by saying, that for several weeks and months, an unusual degree of quiet has prevailed throughout nearly all the military departments, the whole energies of the Government being devoted to preparation for the great struggle known to all to be impending. This state of things has produced a certain degree of monotony in our work, which, for the most part, has consisted in the supply of the current wants of hospitals and camps, the maintenance in full strength and activity of our constantly increasing system of Special Relief, our Hospital Directory and Inspectorial Department. With the exception of the ill-fated Red River expedition, there has been really no military movement calling for special action on our part, and the only emergency which we have been called on to meet is that, if it may be so called,

created by the discovery of a wide spread, indeed, almost universal, scorbutic taint among our troops. This cause, though operating insidiously, was most pregnant of evil, as it sapped the very foundations of health and vigor in those who were to need so much of both, for the arduous duties assigned to them. Unless corrected, this scorbutic tendency would not only impair the efficiency of our troops in every movement, but would increase the mortality from wounds received on the battlefield to a frightful degree. This impending evil was so formidable, that it demanded the most energetic measures for its eradication.

In this effort, the army officers of every grade united in the most harmonious co-operation with the Sanitary Commission, and through the combined efforts of the people at home, the Commission in the field, and the military and medical authorities, the tide of evil was arrested and rolled back.

The part taken by the Sanitary Commission in this great work may be inferred from the amount of their issues of anti-scorbutics, which have been made since the 1st of January in the Western Department, as follows:

80,640 gallons of krait, 33,702 gallons of pickles, 25,000 bushels of potatoes, 4,600 bushels of onions, 8,500 gallons of ale, 25,143 pounds of cod-fish, 158,828 pounds of dried fruit, 43,477 pounds of condensed milk, 27,108 pounds of condensed beef, 16,343 cans of fruit; 1,160 bushels of fresh fruit, 1,500 gallons of apple-butter, 1,676 pounds of tea, 19,560 pounds of sugar, 83 boxes of oranges and lemons, 747 cans of oysters, 10,500 pounds of butter, with various other articles which might be properly included in this category, furnished in smaller quantities, but which need not be enumerated. From all sources we have testimony that this liberal supply of anti-scorbutics has been most efficient in checking the progress of scurvy, and in preparing our men for the hardships and casualties of the impending campaign.

The quantities cited above will doubtless appear respectably large, and yet, when it is remembered that they have been distributed to an army of two hundred thousand men, it will be seen that each one's share has been small indeed. In former times our efforts were limited to that portion of our army occupying the different military hospitals, but the splendid liberality exhibited by the people has, more recently, enabled us to reach with our gifts a large part of the troops in the field; among whom the vegetables, krait, pickles, dried fruit, &c., enumerated in the list given above, have been distributed with a generous hand. With all our resources, and with every effort, however, we have not been able to

reach all, and have fully supplied the wants of but few. Let no one, therefore, who has failed to receive any share of the gifts of the Commission, or has received what he has thought an inadequate quantity, not hastily conclude and assert that the Sanitary Commission is a humbug, but remember how immense is the demand it is expected to supply, and how many there are whose claims upon its charities are no less valid and pressing than his own.

In Kansas, the extreme limit of the western operations of the Commission, there has been prolonged quiet. Most of the troops have been removed farther south. Some forces, however, are left at important points. To the soldiers stationed near Leavenworth and at Fort Scott, our agent, Mr. J. B. Brown, assisted by Dr. Slocum, has distributed whatever stores he has had control of. These have not been equal, by any means, to the demand. It is hoped that with the progress of the season his supply will increase. Mr. Brown's labors have been much enlarged by the multitudinous calls made upon him by the contrabands and Southern refugees who have flocked into Kansas, without support, and utterly dependent upon charity.

In West Virginia, Mr. Price still acts as agent at Wheeling. A new agency has been established, and storehouses opened by Mr. Fracker, at Gallipolis.

Mr. Butler superintends the distribution of stores as well as the Soldiers' Home at Camp Nelson, where Rev. A. Payson has been assigned to duty as hospital visitor, and is doing excellent service.

At Cairo, Mr. Shipman has been thoroughly occupied with the large and numerous shipments made for points on the river below. No steamer has been in the charter of the Commission since Dr. Warriner's recent visit to Vicksburg—an account of which we gave in the last number of the *Reporter*. Goods are now sent from Cairo as often as possible by the regular boats. Most of them go no farther than Vicksburg, although some have been forwarded to New Orleans. The Cincinnati Branch has sent to that point a liberal supply.

To his varied and onerous duties as general agent at Cairo, Mr. Shipman adds that of superintendent of the Soldiers' Home—no slight work in itself. Every one bears witness to the thoroughness, system and good order which characterize his management, and to his kindness and politeness to all who come in contact with him.

At Memphis, Mr. Carpenter still has charge of the storeroom, and Mr. Christy of the Lodge. The relative importance of Memphis has very much diminished, but the returns show that the Lodge is still enjoyed by a large number of soldiers otherwise unprovided for; and the issue of stores mounts up to a very generous aggregate.

The call from the hospitals there is likely to be large, as they will always have many inmates as long as battles take place below. Mr. Carpenter has recently left for Red River with all available stores, and it is hoped will do much to relieve the suffering in that comparatively remote region.

Mr. Way has charge of the storeroom at Vicksburg, and from this place or directly from Cairo, Natchez is furnished. At last accounts, there was a good supply at these places.

The hospital steamers that ply up and down the Mississippi frequently obtain supplies of vegetables and delicacies at Cairo. It is seldom that they make their appearance on the Ohio. A short time ago, however, the admirable and most comfortably managed hospital steamer R. C. Wood, after undergoing repairs at New Albany, was ordered to Red River to receive a load of the wounded in the late expedition. It was the privilege of the Commission to add to her supplies by such contributions as the surgeons and experienced female nurses made requisitions for.

In addition to the special efforts made to check the progress of scurvy, to which reference has already been made, our work in the Army of the Cumberland has, of late, been almost entirely what may be termed *current business*. This, consisting in the maintenance of the numerous stations with all the different departments of the Commission's labor represented by them, has now assumed proportions, which, compared with our operations in past years, renders them almost insignificant.

The agency at Nashville, under the general supervision of Mr. Root, Dr. Read having gone to the front, has been so managed as to elicit warm commendation from the military and medical departments, and from numerous civilians who have inspected its work, and, so far as known, without a hint of criticism from any source. The storeroom has been, as in months and years past, under the supervision of Mr. Robinson, who, with his assistants, has received and shipped the immense amount of stores passing through his hands with an accuracy and dispatch in the highest degree creditable.

The Home, under the management of Capt. Brayton, has greatly grown in usefulness, and now accommodates in comfort, almost in luxury, about two hundred discharged and furloughed soldiers a day.

At Murfreesboro', Stevenson and Huntsville, our agencies, in the hands of a sufficient number of experienced and trusty men, have been doing each its part in the great work of the Commission.

At Chattanooga our operations have been constantly expanding, until it has now become second to none of the agencies of the Commission in magnitude and importance.

Dr. Read, as Chief Inspector of the Department, has made this his headquarters, while the business affairs of the agency have been, as heretofore, under the supervision of M. C. Read, assisted by a large corps of our most efficient and faithful agents. Nowhere has the value of the Commission's work been more generally recognized than at Chattanooga, and nowhere have the medical and military authorities given us more unmistakable evidence of their appreciation and good will. The hospital gardens at this point are fully realizing our most sanguine anticipations. They embrace over two hundred acres now in cultivation, and are already furnishing large quantities of early vegetables for the use of the troops.

At Knoxville, the agency has continued under the direction of Dr. M. M. Seymour, and if we may believe the testimony of the Commanding General of the Department, his Medical Director, Dr. Hewitt, the surgeons in charge of hospitals, and others, it has done much for the comfort and well-being of the troops, both in camp and hospital, in that department.

The hospital garden of about a hundred acres at Knoxville, in charge of Mr. Culbertson, is said to be the admiration of all beholders.

Within the last few weeks the energies of the representatives of the Commission have been directed toward a thorough preparation for the struggle which seemed to be impending between the Union and Confederate forces in Northern Georgia. With this object in view, our force at Chattanooga and vicinity was largely increased, a relief corps organized to accompany the army, and a large amount of battle stores, gathered by contributions from our Branch Commissions and by purchase, transported to the front. The great battles expected have not yet occurred, but sooner or later they are sure to come. It is believed that our preparations are ample. Among the stores now held in readiness for this expected demand may be enumerated: 5,000 shirts, 5,000 pairs of drawers, with other articles of bedding and clothing in like proportion; 5,000 pounds of concentrated beef, 10,000 pounds of condensed milk, 100 barrels of crackers, 2,000 pounds of dried fruit, 5,000 bottles of wine and spirit, 2,000 pounds of butter, 500 pounds of tea, 1,000 pounds of sugar, with oranges and lemons, cod fish, oysters, ale, farina, pickles, sauerkraut, vegetables, eggs, compresses, bandages, and whatever goes to make up the long list of articles needed to mitigate the sufferings of those who are destined to fall in the struggle.

With the advance of the army, frontier stations have been established at Cleveland, Ringgold and Dalton, where, while we write, an efficient corps of field agents are, as we know, engaged in their work of mercy.—*Sanitary Reporter*.

A SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE.

The following poem was addressed to Mrs. —, by a private of the 10th Regt. New York Vols. He had been in her care on board of a Sanitary Commission boat at White House, Va. After he returned to the regiment he sent her these lines. Surely no lady has ever received a more graceful acknowledgment of kindness:

From old St. Paul till now,
Of honorable women not a few
Have left their golden ease, in love to do
The saintly work which Christ-like hearts pursue.

And such a one art thou—God's fair apostle,
Bearing His love in war's horrific train;
Thy blessed feet follow its ghastly pain,
And misery, and death, without disdain.

To one borne from the sullen battle's roar,
Dearer the greeting of thy gentle eyes,
When he, weary, torn, and bleeding lies,
Than all the glory that the victors prize.

When peace shall come, and home shall smile again,
A thousand soldier-hearts, in Northern climes,
Shall tell their little children in their rhymes,
Of the sweet saint who blessed the old war-times.

ON THE CRICKAHOMINT, June 12, 1862.

A DAY IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE DURING GRANT'S ADVANCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1864.

I sit down for a moment, Mr. Editor, in the main business room of the Central Office of the Sanitary Commission, 244 F Street.

Groups of inquirers, in a steady stream—fathers, brothers, wives, sisters, mothers—are entering, and are referred to the spacious office, up stairs, of

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

All night clerks have been engaged in enrolling in huge registers, of which each State has one or more, the names, received promptly and daily from the Medical Bureau, of the sick and wounded who have been brought in to general hospitals, and of the location and subsequent history of each. These are arranged under the *regiments* to which they belong, so that inquiries should always state the number of a wounded or deceased soldier's regiment, and, if possible, the letter of his company.

A sufficient force sits ready at the several desks to make the needed reference and reply. And each inquirer goes away relieved of suspense by certainty; and in a majority of cases a clue has been obtained to guide to the couch of the sufferer sought, or to the head-board of his new-made grave. Often it is suggested, when the individual name is not found, to take from the register a name or two from the list of his regiment, and so to learn from a wounded officer, mess-mate or kinsman, the last that was known of his fellow-soldier on the battle-field.

SUFFERING MEMORANDUM.

I am called away. A soldier, furloughed at a hospital, in hesitating compliance with his long-leave for his home in — (A—B—, —th — Vols.) has been suddenly stopped, while in

search of his pay, by hemorrhage of the brachial artery. A bullet had gone through his arm above the elbow, diagonally, while he was putting a cap upon his gun-lock, and there is a call for lint and bandages, with the words, "I knew the Sanitary Commission would take care of him." He has been carried into Dr. Stone's office, and is soon kindly cared for by him, and then conducted to the Lodge on H Street, where he will be put all right and in due time forwarded on his way. He is pretty well bleached by loss of blood, and his hard hand lily-white.

"I wanted 'em," he said, "just to cut in and tie the artery, and make all tight; but the women told the doctor they thought it would get on without; and he ought not to have minded them. I have it tied now, any way. They put off another fellow that way, till he bled and bled—and his arm mortified, and then they cut it off, and then he died."

Well, A— will get his ligature and a new shirt into the bargain, and his transportation—perhaps his back pay, if the rolls of his regiment are in—and then in the fresh air of — he will soon be "fighting his battles o'er again," and a hero.

By the way, in bandaging his arm there was a revelation that furnishes a hint to

MAKING OF BANDAGES.

I had started with a pocket full from the ready stores in the office; and, to the great annoyance of the operator, (though borne with a patience that satisfied itself with some allusion to "the inexperienced good intention of some country girl,") an entangling fringe of loose threads bothered prodigiously.

Bandages are to be made by tearing, *not by cutting*, the cloth; and, second, all the loose threads are to be *picked* away, either before or after rolling.

If the Directory for Sick and Wounded—constantly guiding inquiries by letter, by telegraph, and by mail—were the only instruments of the Commission's function, it would well repay all outlay.

An agent of the Christian Commission comes in, memorandum book in hand. He desires to learn the whereabouts of a list of wounded. He is asked by me to write out their names and belongings distinctly on a slip of paper, and then goes up to the Directory. He returns in five minutes. "Did you find your men?" "Yes, sir, all of them—all right."

"Three thousand gone already to-day."

Many bags, full of letters, are now in the process of being sorted in my sight. They have been handed in at the tents and sheds of the Sanitary Commission at Belle Plain and Fredericksburg—and at "White Oak Church Shanty," half way between—by the wounded, and by the reinforcements passing to the front, and brought up here in the steamers of the Commission.

Some have post-large stamps; others, and a very large portion, have none. They are carefully assorted here, postage stamps are attached at the expense of the Commission, and they are forwarded without delay. What litter return to the homes that have filled the treasury could be made?

JACOB —, OF MICHIGAN.

Do you see that bright-eyed well-formed boy, of ten years old—the quickest, gayest, aptest of the workers in the letter room—plying, with the

quick stroke of a trip-hammer, the Sanitary Commission stamp with his nimble hand, and whistling at his work?

It is "Jacob." He came in here from a transport load of wounded, soiled, begrimed, and foot-worn; the son of a soldier, whom he had followed in the army, and who had fallen—leaving Jacob fatherless.

What could be done but to wash, and clothe, and welcome him, and give him task-level to his powers? And, now, the brightest, happiest, most touching sight in the office is "Jacob —, of Michigan." J. V.

CAMP COOKING.

Below is an order issued over a year ago to the Army of the Cumberland. It contains some hints of great value to the new troops who are now taking the field.

A great military chieftain once said, that "beans had killed more men than bullets." If this be true, it is not because of any inherent unwholesomeness in the beans, but because of the imperfect manner in which they were then and are now usually prepared for use. Very few of the articles used for food are deleterious in themselves; there are none which may not be made so by improper preparation or combination. Perhaps there is no one mode of cooking more universal and more mischievous than that of frying instead of broiling, and we respectfully suggest this as the point scarcely second in importance to the proper preparation of "soup"—which, according to the French maxim, "makes the soldier":

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 76.

To preserve as far as possible the health of the troops of this army, the following regulations, in regard to diet, are prescribed:

I. When in camp, cooking will be done by companies instead of squads.

II. Soup, made according to the following recipes, will be served up to the men, as follows:

1st. Beef soup, when fresh beef can be procured, twice a week.

2d. Soup made from beans or peas, twice a week, or oftener if desired by the men.

Beef and Vegetable Soup for Fifty Men.

Beef, (cut in pieces of 4 or 5 pounds each)	35 lbs.
Desiccated vegetables	3 lbs.
Rice	4 lbs.
Flour, sugar and salt, each	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Pepper	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Water	8 lbs.

Directions.—Soak the desiccated vegetables from reveille until after breakfast. Immediately after breakfast put all the ingredients into kettles at once, except the flour; set them over the fire, and when beginning to boil diminish the heat, and simmer down until eleven o'clock, then add to the soup the flour, which has been

first mixed with enough water to form a thin batter, mix well together, and boil until noon. Sufficient hot water may be added from time to time to replace that lost in boiling. The soup should be stirred occasionally, to prevent burning or sticking to the sides of the kettle.

Note.—To make good beef soup, it must be borne in mind that the ingredients are put into cold water, and the heat gradually applied until near the boiling point, then simmer for several hours. By brisk boiling the exterior of the meat is hardened, and its juices will not be mixed with the water, but retained. The meat will also be tough and unpalatable. The desiccated vegetables should be well separated when put in water to soak.

Bean Soup for Fifty Men.

Beans	3 qts.
Bacon or pork	15 lbs.
Onions	3 do.
Pepper	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Water	8 galls.

Directions.—Soak the beans over night; at reveille in the morning put them into vessels carefully cleaned, and boil steadily until noon; then mash them with a spoon, or masher made for the purpose, and strain through a colander if practicable.

Immediately after breakfast put the bacon, (or pork,) cut in pieces of from three to five pounds each, into another kettle with water, and boil for an hour; pour off the water, add the bacon to the soup, with onions (chopped fine) and pepper, and boil until noon. Remove the bacon, and cut into smaller pieces, suitable for serving with the soup.

Note.—In the preparation of this soup, soft or rain water should be used where practicable, and if a less quantity than that directed be put into the vessel, or if it becomes necessary, from long boiling, to add more, it should be boiling and not cold water. The bacon, after par-boiling, can be placed near the fire if the beans are not sufficiently soft to mash well. The reason for directing that the bacon be added after the beans are done, is that grease of any kind hardens them.

When peas are used in lieu of beans they should be treated in the same manner.

III. All commanding officers are charged to see that these orders are strictly enforced, and, that there may be no negligence on the part of company cooks, company officers will inspect the cooking every day, and see that it is properly done.

IV. The special attention of officers of the Inspector General's Department will be given to this matter, and they are directed to report the execution or neglect of these orders, by every regiment in the department, in their semi-monthly inspection reports.

V. The senior medical officer on duty with each regiment, will make a written report, on Monday of each week, to the Medical Director of the Department, through the intermediate medical officers, stating the number of times soup has been served to the men during the week, the kind, and the quality of the cooking.

The importance of wholesome food cannot be over-estimated, and the General Commanding enjoins upon the commanding officer of every regiment the necessity of enforcing these orders.

Improper and badly cooked food, eaten at unreasonable hours, is the cause of much of the sickness which thins our ranks and fills our hospitals.

NOTES ON NURSING.

WHAT FOOD.

I have known patients live for many months without touching bread, because they could not eat baker's bread. These were mostly country patients, but not all. Home-made bread or brown bread is a most important article of diet for many patients. The use of aperients may be entirely superseded by it. Out cake is another.

To watch for the opinions, then, which the patient's stomach gives, rather than to read "analyses of foods," is the business of all those who have to settle what the patient is to eat—perhaps the most important thing to be provided for him after the air he is to breathe.

Now the medical man who sees the patient only once a day, or even only once or twice a week, cannot possibly tell this without the assistance of the patient himself, or of those who are in constant observation on the patient. The utmost the medical man can tell is whether the patient is weaker or stronger at this visit than he was at the last visit. I should therefore say that incomparably the most important office of the nurse, after she has taken care of the patient's air, is to take care to observe the effect of his food, and report it to the medical attendant.

It is quite incalculable the good that would certainly come from such *actual* and close observation in this almost neglected branch of nursing, or the help it would give to the medical man.

A great deal too much against tea is said by wise people, and a great deal too much of tea is given to the sick by foolish people. When you see the natural and almost universal craving in English sick for their "tea," you cannot but feel that nature knows what she is about. But a little tea or coffee restores them quite as much as a great deal, and a great deal of tea, and especially of coffee, impairs the little power of digestion they have. Yet a nurse, because she sees how one or two cups of tea or coffee restores her patient, thinks that three or four cups will do twice as much. This is not the case at all; it is, however, certain that there is nothing yet discovered which is a substitute to the English patient for his cup of tea; he can take it when he can take nothing else, and he often can't take any thing else if he has it not. I should be very glad if any of the abusers of tea would point out what to give to an English patient, after a sleepless night, instead of tea. If you give it at five or six o'clock in the morning, he may even sometimes fall asleep after it, and get perhaps his only two or three hours' sleep during the twenty-four. At the same time, you never should give tea or coffee to the sick, as a rule, after five o'clock in the afternoon. Sleeplessness in the early night is from excitement generally, and is increased by tea or coffee; sleeplessness which continues to the early morning is from exhaustion often, and is relieved by tea. The only English patients I

have ever known refuse tea, have been typhus cases, and the first sign of their getting better was their craving again for tea. In general, the dry and dirty tongue always prefers tea to coffee, and will quite decline milk, unless with tea. Coffee is a better restorative than tea, but a greater impairer of the digestion. Let the patient's taste decide. You will say that, in cases of great thirst, the patient's craving decides that it will drink a great deal of tea, and that you cannot help it. But in these cases be sure that the patient requires diluent for quite other purposes than quenching the thirst; he wants a great deal of some drink, not only of tea, and the doctor will order what he is to have, barley water or lemonade, or soda water and milk, as the case may be.

It is made a frequent recommendation to persons about to incur great exhaustion, either from the nature of the service, or from their being not in a state fit for it, to eat a piece of bread before they go. I wish the recommenders would themselves try the experiment of substituting a piece of bread for a cup of tea or coffee, or beef-tea, as a refresher. They would find it a very poor comfort. When soldiers have to set out fasting on tiring duty, when nurses have to go fasting to their patients, it is a hot restorative they want, and ought to have, before they go, not a cold bit of bread. And dreadful have been the consequences of neglecting this. If they can take a bit of bread with the hot cup of tea, so much the better, but not instead of it. The fact that there is more nourishment in bread than in almost any thing else, has probably induced the mistake. That it is a fatal mistake, there is no doubt. It seems, though very little is known on the subject, that what "assimilates" itself directly, and with the least trouble of digestion with the human body, is the best for the above circumstances. Bread requires two or three processes of assimilation before it becomes like the human body.

The almost universal testimony of English men and women who have undergone great fatigue, such as riding long journeys without stopping, or sitting up for several nights in succession, is that they could do it best upon an occasional cup of tea, and nothing else.

Let experience, not theory, decide upon this as upon all other things.

Lehman, quoted by Dr. Christison, says that, among the well and active, "the infusion of 1 oz. of roasted coffee daily will diminish the waste" going on in the body "by one-fourth," and Dr. Christison adds that tea has the same property. Now this is actual experiment. Lehman weighs the man, and finds the fact from his weight. It is not deduced from any "analysis" of food. All experience among the sick shows the same thing.

In making coffee, it is absolutely necessary to buy it in the berry and grind it at home. Otherwise you may reckon upon its containing a certain amount of chicory, *at least*. This is not a question of the taste, or of the wholesomeness of chicory. It is that chicory has nothing at all of the properties for which you give coffee. And therefore you may as well not give it.

Again, all landladies, mistresses of dairy-farms, head nurses, (I speak of the good old sort only—women who unite a good deal of hard manual labor with the head-work neces-

sary for arranging the day's business, so that none of it shall tread upon the heels of something else,) set great value, I have observed, upon having a high-priced tea. This is called extravagant. But these women are "extravagant" in nothing else. And they are right in this. Real tea-leaf tea alone contains the restorative they want; which is not to be found in shoe-leaf tea.

The mistresses of houses, who cannot even go over their own house once a day, are incapable of judging for these women. For they are incapable themselves, to all appearance, of the spirit of arrangement (no small task) necessary for managing a large ward or dairy.

Cocoa is often recommended to the sick in lieu of tea or coffee. But, independently of the fact that English sick very generally dislike cocoa, it has quite a different effect from tea or coffee. It is an oily, starchy nut, having no restorative power at all, but simply increasing fat. It is pure mockery of the sick, therefore, to call it a substitute for tea. For any renovating stimulus it has, you might just as well offer them chestnuts instead of tea.

An almost universal error among nurses is in the bulk of the food, and especially the drinks, they offer to their patients. Suppose a patient ordered 4 oz. brandy during the day, how is he to take this if you make it into four pints with diluting it? The same with tea and beef tea, with arrowroot, milk, &c. You have not increased the nourishment, you have not increased the renovating power of these articles, by increasing their bulk—you have very likely diminished both by giving the patient's digestion more to do, and most likely of all, the patient will leave half of what he has been ordered to take, because he cannot swallow the bulk with which you have been pleased to invest it. It requires very nice observation and care (and meets with hardly any) to determine what will not be too thick or strong for the patient to take, while giving him no more than the bulk which he is able to swallow.

BED AND BEDDING.

A few words upon bedsteads and bedding; and principally as regards patients who are entirely, or almost entirely, confined to bed.

Feverishness is generally supposed to be a symptom of fever—in nine cases out of ten it is a symptom of bedding. The patient has had re-introduced into the body the emanations from himself which day after day and week after week a stunted his unaired bedding. How can it be otherwise? Look at the ordinary bed in which a patient lies.

If I were looking out for an example in order to show what *not* to do, I should take the specimen of an ordinary bed in a private house: a wooden bedstead, two or even three mattresses piled up to above the height of a table; a valance attached to the frame—nothing but a miracle could ever thoroughly dry or air such a bed and bedding. The patient must inevitably alternate between cold damp after his bed is made, and warm damp before, both saturated with organic matter, and this from the time the mattresses are put under him till the time they are picked to pieces, if this is ever done.

If you consider that an adult in health exhales by the lungs and skin in the twenty-four hours

three pints at least of moisture, loaded with organic matter ready to enter into putrefaction; that in sickness the quantity is often greatly increased, the quality is always more noxious—just ask yourself next where does all this moisture go to? Chiefly into the bedding, because it cannot go any where else. And it stays there; because, except perhaps a weekly change of sheets, scarcely any other airing is attempted. A nurse will be careful to flig-itness about airing the clean sheets from clean damp, but airing the dirty sheets from noxious damp will never even occur to her. Besides this, the most dangerous effluvia we know of are from the excreta of the sick—these are placed, at least temporarily, where they must throw their effluvia into the under side of the bed, and the space under the bed is never aired; it cannot be, with our arrangements. Must not such a bed be always saturated, and be always the means of re-introducing into the system of the unfortunate patient who lies in it, that excrementitious matter to eliminate which from the body nature had expressly appointed the disease?

My heart always sinks within me when I hear the good house-wife, of every class, say, "I assure you the bed has been well slept in," and I can only hope it is not true. What? is the bed already saturated with somebody else's damp before my patient comes to exhale in it his own damp? Has it not had a single chance to be aired? No, not one. "It has been slept in every night."

The only way of really nursing a real patient is to have an iron bedstead, with rheoline springs, which are permeable by the air up to the very mattress, (no valance, of course,) the mattress to be a thin hair one; the bed to be not above 3½ feet wide. If the patient be entirely confined to his bed, there should be two such bedsteads; each bed to be "made" with mattress, sheets, blankets, &c., complete—the patient to pass twelve hours in each bed; on no account to carry his sheets with him. The whole of the bedding to be hung up to air for each intermediate twelve hours. Of course there are many cases where this cannot be done at all—many cases where only an approach to it can be made. I am indicating the ideal of nursing, and what I have actually had done. But about the kind of bedstead there can be no doubt, whether there be one or two provided.

There is a prejudice in favor of a wide bed—I believe it to be a prejudice. All the refreshment of moving a patient from one side to the other of his bed is far more effectually secured by putting him into a fresh bed; and a patient who is really very ill does not stray far in bed. But it is said there is no room to put a tray down on a narrow bed. No good nurse will ever put a tray on a bed at all. If the patient can turn on his side, he will eat more comfortably from a bed side table; and on no account whatever should a bed ever be higher than a sofa. Otherwise the patient feels himself "out of humanity's reach;" he can get at nothing for himself; he can move nothing for himself. If the patient cannot turn, a table over the bed is a better thing. I need hardly say that a patient's bed should never have its side against the wall. The nurse must be able to get easily to both sides of the bed, and to reach easily every part of the patient without stretching—a thing im-

possible if the bed be either too wide or too high.

When I see a patient, in a room nine or ten feet high, upon a bed between four and five feet high, with his head, when he is sitting up in bed, actually within two or three feet of the ceiling, I ask myself, is this expressly planned to produce that peculiarly distressing feeling common to the sick, viz., as if the walls and ceiling were closing in upon them, and they becoming sandwiched between floor and ceiling, which imagination is not, indeed, here so far from the truth? If, over and above this, the window stops short of the ceiling, then the patient's head may literally be raised above the stratum of fresh air, even when the window is open. Can human perversity any farther go, in unmaking this process of restoration which God has made? The fact is, that the heads of sleepers, or of sick, should never be higher than the throat of the chimney, which ensures their being in the current of best air. And we will not suppose it possible that you have closed your chimney with a chimney board.

If a bed is higher than a sofa, the difference of the fatigue of getting in and out of bed will just make the difference, very often, to the patient (who can get in and out of bed at all) of being able to take a few minutes' exercise, either in the open air or in another room. It is so very odd that people never think of this, or of how many more times a patient who is in bed for the twenty-four hours is obliged to get in and out of bed than they are, who only, it is to be hoped, get into bed once and out of bed once during the twenty-four hours.

A patient's bed should always be in the lightest spot in the room; and he should be able to see out of window.

I need scarcely say that the old four-post bed with curtains is utterly inadmissible, whether for sick or well. Hospital bedsteads are in many respects very much less objectionable than private ones.

There is reason to believe that not a few of the apparently unaccountable cases of scrofula among children proceed from the habit of sleeping with the head under the bed clothes, and so inhaling air already breathless, which is farther contaminated by exhalations from the skin. Patients are sometimes given to a similar habit, and it often happens that the bed clothes are so disposed that the patient must necessarily breathe air more or less contaminated by exhalations from his skin. A good nurse will be careful to attend to this. It is an important part, so to speak, of ventilation.

It may be worth while to remark, that where there is any danger of bed-sores a blanket should never be placed *under* the patient. It retains damp and acts like a poultice.

Never use anything but light Whitney blankets as bed covering for the sick. The heavy cotton impervious counterpane is bad, for the very reason that it keeps in the emanations from the sick person, while the blanket allows them to pass through. Weak patients are invariably distressed by a great weight of bed clothes, which often prevents their getting any sound sleep what-ever.

One word about pillows. Every weak patient, be his illness what it may, suffers more or less from difficulty in breathing. To

take the weight of the body off the poor chest, which is hardly up to its work as it is, ought therefore to be the object of the nurse in arranging his pillows. Now what does she do and what are the consequences? She piles the pillows one-a-top of the other like a wall of bricks. The head is thrown upon the chest. And the shoulders are pushed forward, so as not to allow the lungs to expand. The pillows, in fact, lean upon the patient, not the patient upon the pillows. It is impossible to give a rule for this, because it must vary with the figure of the patient. And tall patients suffer much more than short ones, because of the *drag* of the long limbs upon the waist. But the object is to support, with the pillows, the back *before* the breathing apparatus, to allow the shoulders room to fall back, and support the head, without throwing it forward. The suffering of dying patients is immensely increased by neglect of these points. And many an invalid, too weak to drag about his pillows himself, slips his book or anything at hand behind the lower part of his back to support it.

LIGHT.

It is the unqualified result of all my experience with the sick, that second only to their need of fresh air is their need of light; that, after a close room, what hurts them most is a dark room. And that it is not only light but direct sun-light they want. I had rather have the power of carrying my patient about after the sun, according to the aspect of the rooms, if circumstances permit, than let him linger in a room when the sun is off. People think the effect is upon the spirits only. This is by no means the case. The sun is not only a painter but a sculptor. You admit that he does the photograph. Without going into any scientific expostions we must admit that light has quite as real and tangible effects upon the human body. But this is not all. Who has not observed the purifying effect of light, and especially of direct sunlight, upon the air of a room? Here is an observation within everybody's experience. Go into a room where the shutters are always shut, (in a sick room or a bed room there should never be shutters shut,) and though the room be uninhabited, though the air has never been polluted by the breathing of human beings, you will observe a close, musty smell of corrupt air, of air i. e. unpurified by the effect of the sun's rays. The mustiness of dark rooms and corners, indeed, is proverbial. The cheerfulness of a room, the usefulness of light in treating disease is all-important.

A very high authority in hospital construction has said that the people do not enough consider the difference between wards and dormitories in planning their buildings. But I go farther, and say, that healthy people never remember the difference between *bed-rooms* and *sick-rooms*, in making arrangements for the sick. To a sleeper in health it does not signify what the view is from his bed. He ought never to be in it excepting when asleep, and at night. Aspect does not very much signify either, (provided the sun reach his bed-room some time in every day, to purify the air,) because he ought never to be in his bed-room except during the hours when there is no sun. But the case is exactly reversed with the sick, even should they

be as many hours out of their beds as you are in yours, which probably they are not. Therefore, that they should be able, without raising themselves or turning in bed, to see out of window from their beds, to see sky and sunlight at least, if you can show them nothing else, I assert to be, if not of the very first importance for recovery, at least something very near it. And you should therefore look to the position of the beds of your sick one of the very first things. If they can see out of two windows instead of one, so much the better. Again, the morning sun and the mid-day sun—the hours when they are quite certain not to be up, are of more importance to them, if a choice must be made, than the afternoon sun. Perhaps you can take them out of bed in the afternoon and set them by the window, where they can see the sun. But the best rule is, if possible, to give them direct sunlight from the moment he rises till the moment he sets.

Another great difference between the bedroom and the sick-room is, the sleeper has a very large balance of fresh air to begin with, when he begins the night, if his room has been open all day as it ought to be; the sick man has not, because all day he has been breathing the air in the same room, and dirtying it by the emanations from himself. Far more care is therefore necessary to keep up a constant change of air in the sick room.

It is hardly necessary to add that there are acute cases, (particularly a few ophthalmic cases, and diseases where the eye is morbidly sensitive,) where a subdued light is necessary. But a dark north room is inadmissible even for these. You can always moderate the light by blinds and curtains.

Heavy, thick, dark window or bed curtains should, however, hardly ever be used for any kind of sick in this country. A light white curtain at the head of the bed is, in general, all that is necessary, and a green blind to the window, to be drawn down only when necessary.

One of the greatest observers of human things, (not physiological,) says, in another language: "Where there is sun there is light." All physiology goes to confirm this. Where is the shady side of deep valleys, there is cretinism. Where are cellars and the sunken sides of narrow streets, there is the degeneracy and weakness of the human race—mind and body equally degenerating. Put the pale withering plant and human being into the sun, and, if not too far gone, each will recover health and spirit.

It is a curious thing to observe how almost all patients lie with their faces turned to the light, exactly as plants always make their way towards the light; a patient will even complain that it gives him pain "lying on that side." "Then why do you lie on that side?" He does not know—but we do. It is because it is the side towards the window. A fashionable physician has recently published in a government report that he always turns his patient's faces from the light. Yes, but nature is stronger than fashionable physicians, and depend upon it she turns the faces back and towards such light as she can get. Walk through the wards of a hospital, remember the bed sides of private patients you have seen, and count how many sick you ever saw lying with their faces toward the windows. —*Mrs. Nightingale.*

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THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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A. D. Hache, L.L.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
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R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
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C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

For Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectively than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods sent in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 8d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adams Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburgh, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 63 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Lodge No. 4, 4 B Street, between 13th and 14th Streets, Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malone, Sup't.
James Morison, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio—Wm. R. L.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	\$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

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Stocks, Bonds and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	365,960 00
Cash in Bank and Office	21,232 15
Loans on demand with collaterals	71,400 00
Premiums due and outstanding	3,820 81
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission [business of April received]	13,491 57
Interest accrued on Securities	21,684 60
Other Property of Company	1,265 00
	\$675,014 13
Losses unadjusted	\$10,500 00

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T H E

SANITARY COMMISSION

BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, JUNE 15, 1864.

No. 16.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 63 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

THE MONTH'S WORK.

Subjoined is a statement of the disbursements made by the Commission, during the month of May, for the national forces in Virginia. It will be seen that of \$328,351, there has been expended in cash drawn from the Central Treasury \$236,349, or over two-thirds of the total amount. And it must be remembered, too, that this is for the relief of only one of our armies. It does not include any portion of the outlay incurred on behalf of General Sherman's army in Georgia, or on behalf of General Banks's army in Mississippi. Nor does it include the expenses of the "Homes" and "Lodges" scattered all over the country, nor of the work of sanitary inspection. It has, in fact, been called forth by the sick and wounded of the forces in Virginia, and during only the opening month of what promises to be a long and bloody campaign.

We call attention to these facts for the benefit of those—and their name is legion—who are possessed with the belief, that, inasmuch as the Commission has received a million and a half from the fairs, it has now money enough, and the tide of public charity may be turned in some other direction. A quarter of a million is gone in Virginia alone in four weeks. At this rate, the fund now in the treasury, or likely to come into it, would not nearly meet all the wants of General Grant's army only between now and the first of November, for we are constantly forced into extending the field of our operations. There is constantly a vast deal of suffering which the Medical Department cannot prevent, and which we, let us be ever so well supported by the country, cannot nearly relieve.

On a subsequent page of the present number will be found a statement in detail of the issues of supplies in Virginia during the month of May, as well as of the anti-scorbutic stores, now on hand, that have been forwarded to our depots in Maryland and Virginia. About the latter we will only say, that they fall very far short of meeting the call upon them. One of the greatest dangers with which the army has to contend, is the scorbutic tendencies created by the want of vegetables. We have so often set forth in these pages the effects upon the soldier's health and efficiency, and his recuperative power when wounded, of the scorbutic taint, that it is not necessary that we should now go over the ground again. But we must once more earnestly appeal to the public for contributions of onions and potatoes. It is safe to say that every barrel of either of these vegetables forwarded to us may be the means of saving a life. With such a vast extent of fertile soil as is at the command of two-thirds of our population, there ought to be no difficulty in obtaining more of these things than we can possibly use. Will, therefore, everybody who has either a garden or a farm, remember that a very small patch of it may, by a very small amount of labor, be made to rescue a soldier from death?

Statement of Disbursements during the month of May, 1864, for the National Forces in Virginia:

SUPPLIES.	
Amount paid for purchases at—	
New York.....	\$57,942 38
Washington.....	28,156 58
Baltimore.....	43,494 64—\$130,195 00

DISTRIBUTION.	
Expenses, including subsistence, transportation and compensation, of over two hundred Relief Corps Agents; forage for horses; materials necessary for the work of agents.....	17,150 17

HORSES, WAGONS, AND HARNESSES.	
Amount paid for.....	31,735 43

TRANSPORTATION.	
Amount paid for Charter—	
Steamer "Keok," 20 days, to June 1st.....	\$4,500 00
Steamer "J. B. Thompson," 27 days, to June 1st.....	8,375 00
Steamer "Mary Hapley," 24 days to June 1st.....	2,400 00
Steamer "Phoenix," 21½ days, to June 1st.....	690 00
Barge "Washington," 20 days to June 1st.....	420 00
Steamer "Hudley," 15 days, to June 1st.....	300 00
Steamer "Gov. Curtin," 8 days, to June 1st.....	800 00
Barge "Hoboken," 10 days, to June 1st.....	275 00
Coal, labor, &c.....	2,373 21— 15,133 21

SPECIAL RELIEF.	
Amount during the month.....	4,206 80
Estimated value of additional supplies contributed to the Commission and issued to the Army in Eastern Virginia.....	130,000 00
Total.....	\$328,381 21

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Washington Chronicle*, by Mr. Knapp, our Associate Secretary:

My attention has been called to the tone of exaggeration in which some persons speak of the work of the Sanitary Commission, as if the Commission was doing everything and the Government nothing for the wounded soldiers. These statements do not emanate from, nor are they endorsed by the Sanitary Commission. On the contrary, while the Commission records, and is glad to be able to record, the aid it has rendered to the wounded, and while it seeks by public reports to assure the people that it is alive and worthy the trust placed in its hands, it is never found depreciating the vastly greater service rendered by the Government, through the regular channels of aid and supply.

The Sanitary Commission gives no countenance to that tone of wholesale denunciation in which "visitors" to the army speak of the neglect and utter delinquency of public officers in caring for the wounded. The Commission sees what it considers defects, and it is forced to recognize in individual officers and on specified occasions what it believes to be delinquencies and neglect, and the suffering consequent; but it also sees and recognizes, as few others can, the immense labor which devolves upon the Medical Department in times like these, and the immense work which is done. It realizes, as others may not, that the transporting of twenty-five thousand wounded men from the battle-field to distant hospitals, involves unavoidable delays and suffering; especially when, as now, the army is moving rapidly forward, with a frequent change of base, compelling, as a "military necessity," the instant transportation of wounded from the vicinity of previously occupied fields to general hospitals, no matter how severe may be the wounds, or how impassable the roads, or how deficient

the means of transportation at command. No man who has not been upon the ground, and day after day seen the labor to be undergone, and the difficulties to be met, can form the slightest idea of the terrific work laid upon the medical officers after a great battle.

Sometimes at a single wharf, as was the case at Belle Plain, a business equal to that of a city of fifty thousand inhabitants has to be carried on. There are the Quartermasters and the Commissaries, with their crowds of boats and immense stores, wagons in trains a mile long pushing in from the shore, and impatiently waiting to be loaded; re-enforcements, five to ten thousand men in one single day, arriving to be disembarked and moved forward to the battle-field; prisoners, by the thousands also, to be brought down to the boats under guard; and meantime, with it all, at this same wharf must place and time be found for receiving the wounded as they are brought in, two or three hundred ambulances and wagons at once, followed immediately by as many more—with a crowd of those men, who with wounds less severe, have walked in with slow steps from corps and division hospitals. This is a mere outline sketch, to be filled in with the breaking down of wagons on shore, blocking whole trains; tearing up the corduroy roads, opening thus the way to mud and quicksands; the arrival of unexpected wounded, and non-arrival of expected boats; the rush, and moving to and fro of these masses of men and teams and stores; the slow, cautious handling upon stretchers, borne down in long file, of men with amputated limbs or terrible wounds; the feeding of the hungry and trying to alleviate their sufferings; all this continued by night the same as by day, through the darkness and the rain. A person who has never been in the midst of all this, and who has not repeatedly been in the midst of all this, has no power and no right to judge of what the officers of the medical and of other departments are doing. Still less power or right to judge and criticize belong to the individual who with excited feelings of philanthropy goes from some quiet home of his own down to the "front," expecting by a week's work of humane and irresponsible labor to

set everything to rights and relieve all suffering. To such a man the whole scene is, of course, confusion and neglect and ruin, while in reality it is simply WAR, with what in a great measure are its unavoidable consequences. The Sanitary Commission knows from long acquaintance with such scenes the work which the Medical Department has to do, and the embarrassments under which it labors.

With a steady hand in its own assigned place does the Commission seek to co-operate with the Medical Department. All the employees of the Commission are instructed not to criticize but to work; and to work subjecting themselves to military rule. So far as I know, a spirit of cordial good-will is felt by all the officers and real workers of the Commission in the field for the medical staff, with whom they have direct relations.

The Sanitary Commission in proper place and in authorized manner does not hesitate to point out the deficiencies and neglects which it sees. It seeks honestly and earnestly to secure needed reforms; it advocates constantly what it constantly sees the call for, as, for instance, a *larger provision* for the sick and wounded, embracing a larger corps of surgeons and of nurses; more hospital transports, exclusively assigned for the whole term of war to the Medical Department; and an independent and ample transportation train, involving a large outlay, as entirely under the control of the Surgeon-General and his officers, as is the ambulance train. The Sanitary Commission thus points out what it considers defects, and seeks to secure reform; yet it works in good faith and cordial earnestness, in its own more humble way, with the Medical Department as a whole.

In order to illustrate this, let me call your attention to the following extracts from letters and reports concerning the work of the Commission, in which reference is made to Medical Officers. You will see that the tone is that of co-operation.

I will turn first to the last report received from the agent of the Commission in charge of the work at Port Royal, Virginia, a day or two since. He says:

"All day Friday we fed, and issued supplies to the wounded, without stint. All

the departments have treated us with a cordiality, and more than cordiality—a willing confidence and cheer—that makes one quite buoyant in approaching them and working with them. Dr. Cuyler, Dr. Phillips, the representative of Dr. Parlan, at this post, and Dr. McKay, have been especially obliging. Dr. Cuyler on finding us so diligently at work, told me to draw on him for anything I needed. He loaned us additional stores, candles, furnished us beef stock and coffee to any extent that we desired, and facilitated our operations in all proper ways, giving us information of the arrival of trains freely and promptly.

"I have never before seen the organic and proper relations between the Medical Department and the Commission so smoothly, thoroughly, and harmoniously adjusted—It was official and responsible—we were supplementers not suppliants, and the attachments of each seemed to have a strong feeling of mutual respect and heartiness."—*Report of John A. Anderson, Port Royal, Va., May 28, 1864.*

To this, I add extracts from recently printed records—some of them official reports, some hastily written letters.

"May 11, 1864.

* * * "It should not be forgotten, however, that the labors of the Commission are subordinate, and only auxiliary to the vaster and more perfectly organized system of the Medical Department of the Army, with which it works in complete accord. Col. Barnes, acting Surgeon General, gives to the Commission and its agents such facilities as are asked for, and from the Quartermaster's Department valuable aid is received."

* * * * *

"With these nineteen teams the supplies can go on to Fredericksburg rapidly, where there is need of them. I can assure you, although Government is making exertions to supply the need, and is constantly showing increased ability to put in practice what were before regarded as only experiments. Thus, the Government has prepared, and admirably, two large hospital transports, and has also arranged for feeding the sick on board some of the other boats which are not regular floating hospitals."

"May 22, 1864.

"Bands of volunteers from various localities cheerfully took work in harmony with your organization, and lifting up the stretcher, supporting the crippled soldier to the boat, carrying bread, crackers and coffee, bathing the wounds, or re-adjusting bandages, serve to redouble all your means of succor. The officers of the Government both accepted cordially your services, and added in some things to your material, especially in supplies of bread, soft as well

hard, and the members of the Christian Commission harmoniously co-operated in your work."

* * *

"I cannot close this hasty record without making mention, with admiration and gratitude, of the urbane and cordial temper in which the Medical Inspector in charge, and the medical officers under him, welcomed and seconded your service, and promoted its efficiency. Of the energy and decision, tempered with humane considerations of Col. Cuyler, and of his unflagging labor by night and day, all will bear glad witness. It was everything to us, unraveling intricacies, and shedding sunshine over the scene. The action of the entire medical staff here present, was in harmony with this example. The laborious and responsible duties of quartermaster were in the hands of one competent to meet the demands of this difficult occasion, and there are few men in his department who could have discharged the duty with the heart and energy, and administrative skill which enabled him to crowd the work of a month into a single week."

The following is an extract from a letter of Doctor C. R. Agnew, of the Commission, dated May 24th, 1864, describing the work at Belle Plain:

* * * "Down the right hand side of the U-shaped dock slowly moved a single file of army wagons filled with wounded men; at the end or corner of the dock, by the gangway of a large Government transport, stood that most efficient and admirable officer, Dr. Cuyler, acting Medical Inspector General U. S. A., receiving the wounded, and superintending their removal from the wagons to the deck of the transport, preparatory to their transfer to the hospital steamboats that lay in the offing. After each wagon had deposited its living freight, it passed around the end of the dock to the left-hand side, and then took in ammunition or fighting rations—the orders being imperative to return to the front only with full loads of these indispensable supplies. Crowding along the narrow margin of the dock were continuous lines of men carrying litters and stretchers, on which were such of the more severely wounded as had been removed from the wagons at the hospital tents, on the hillside above the plain; hour after hour, for several days, was this fearful procession kept up. It would not be proper for me to state how many thousands thus passed under Dr. Cuyler's inspection, but I cannot forbear mentioning the most distinguished zeal, energy, and self-devotion with which his arduous duties were performed. His administrative skill, his quick and ready humanity, his almost ubiquitous presence,

his self-denying exposure to the pelting rain while laboring to secure prompt shelter to the wounded, his night work and day work, his personal attention to even the little wants and minor discomforts of each individual sufferer, were the subjects of universal admiration. Dr. Brinton was also there, working with signal efficiency and vigor in the difficult undertaking of forwarding medical supplies promptly to Fredericksburg and the front."

"Capt. Clark, of the Quartermaster's Department, and Capt. Labey, 15th Regiment N. Y. Engineer Corps, gave us most cheerful and essential aid in this work. Indeed, from all the officers of the post we received nothing but kind services and expressions of goodwill. Capt. Pitkin, of the Quartermaster's Department, provided every facility in his power, and from Gen. Abercrombie and Col. Cuyler down, everybody seemed to take pleasure in aiding us. From Monday, the 9th, until this time, incessant exertions have been made by the officers of the Medical, Quartermasters', Commissaries and Ordnance Departments to remove the wounded from the rear of the army, and replenish the trains for forward movements. No one at home can form any idea of the labors of the officers in these departments, day after day and night after night, oftentimes living, meanwhile, on the scantiest subsistence, such as coffee and crackers, and these hurriedly taken. We are oftentimes loud in our praises of military commanders for achieving victory, but seldom give due credit for the result to the quartermasters, who work with almost superhuman energy at some base of supplies, and on whose talent, energy and fertility in resources, the very existence of the army depends."

"I should say that at Fredericksburg the medical affairs were under the able management of Dr. Dalton, Medical Director, while large numbers of medical men from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere, served day and night in the hospitals, aiding those devoted men, the army surgeons, in their exhaustive and most serious and self-denying duties. Who can sum up the value of the services of the army surgeons? Who can describe, in becoming phrases, a tithe of what they do for the thousands of suffering men thrown upon their care and skill by the fearful casualties of active campaigns. I never witness their conduct without a sense of the profoundest admiration, and a renewed conviction that the best work of our Commission is that by which we endeavor, even in an humble way, to strengthen their hands by supplementary assistance."

I add likewise this extract from a Special

Relief Report of the Commission, dated October 1, 1863, expressing the feeling with which the Commission still regard the Medical Bureau:

* * * * * "And in this connection I may fitly refer, both for the sake of justice to the Medical Department and as an apology for our own *existence*, to the frequent inquiry, uttered often in a tone of censure, How is it possible, if the medical officers do their duty, there can be any opportunity even for this supplementary work of relief?

"The question shows utter ignorance of the terrific weight of work, of the most complicated and delicate character, which the officers of the Medical Department have upon their hands, and of their constant liability to be called upon at any moment to meet great and unexpected emergencies. The fact is simply this, that while the Medical Department has made a larger and wider provision for the comfort of the sick and the wounded than the world ever before saw, there is not, and cannot be, a minuteness of detail and awaiting at every corner to give to a fainting soldier a cup of water, such as friends at home, in their anxious love, ask for.

"Yet this work needs to be done, and therefore we, who are simply the hands to the people's heart and bounty, do the work. But if the Medical Department were to attempt it in all its minutiae of detail, their power for their own hundredfold greater work would be weakened in a way that would find no justification."

SHERMAN'S ARMY.

We must warn our readers that as long as active operations are going on in the field, it is impossible for our agents to forward full and correct accounts of what they are doing. Their energies are taxed to the uttermost night and day, in attending to the sick and wounded, so that we are obliged to wait for complete reports until there comes a lull. For the use of Gen. Sherman's Army, goods are constantly going forward. No pains are spared to make the supply ample.

During the month of May, in addition to the heavy shipments that have gone from Cincinnati, and other points by river to Nashville, there have been sent from Louisville by rail the following amount of articles, besides large supplies of those less essential at this particular time:

536 blankets and comforts, 127 bedticks,

703 pillows and 1,004 pillow cases, 2,86 shirts, 1,931 pairs of drawers, 1,480 coats and vests, 1,552 towels, 490 pairs of socks, 100 pairs of slippers, 495 cushions, 11,783 pounds of bandages and compresses, 839 cans of fruit, 5,675 pounds concentrated beef, 30,304 pounds condensed milk, 14,530 pounds of crackers, 840 pounds of tea, 2,861 pounds of sugar, 14,491 pounds of dried fruit, 25 boxes oranges and lemons, 3,161 pounds codfish, 1,718 pounds butter, 720 dozen of eggs, 7,449 bottles of wine and spirits, 4,715 gallons of pickles, 4,430 gallons of sauer kraut, 10,462 bushels of potatoes, 1,280 gallons of ale, 300 cans of oysters, 20 tons of ice and 2,000 fans.

The following letters have reached us from Sherman's front:

KINSTON, Ga., May 23, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, Secretary:

MY DEAR SIR—I start this morning with the Army, not knowing where I am going or when I can return.

At Tunnel Hill we had our goods ready before there were any wounded at Buzzard Roost. At Resaca we had abundant supplies on the field. When the wounded were moved from the field to the railroad, our supplies were a little behind, but very soon brought up. Then I had abundant supplies on the way, but sent them back, with the exception of a good supply of milk, beef and whisky. Mr. Collins, of the Western Commission, had two car loads of very good stores. I joined with him in distributing to each corps or division as they would appropriate transportation. We gave all a large supply, and have but little left.

Dr. Kitto and Gen. Sherman advise sending all our stores not distributed back to Resaca until the result of this movement is determined, which we shall probably do.

We have now a storeroom at Dalton and Resaca, and have had one at Ringgold and Tunnel Hill, which we have abandoned as the army has moved.

My plan will be, as it has been, to keep stores at the terminus of the railroad, and by being with the army, I can obtain teams, at least have thus far, to bring forward goods as soon as wanted.

The weather is dry, dusty and hot. Dr.

Webster, with Mr. Hobbit, Fairchild, and Pocock, go with the army.

Most truly yours,

A. N. READ.

IN THE FIELD, AND NEAR DALLAS.
May 20, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. NEWBERRY—As I have written you, we loaded all the teams we could obtain at Kingston with sanitary stores, and by order sent the balance back to Resaca. We sent a load with each corps, and, in some cases, one with each division.

We have had more fighting here, and the battle, yet undecided, may be said to be in progress. We are very near the line with the hospitals. The goods of the Commission have come in good time, and the wounded so far have been well cared for except in transportation. Most have been sent back from Resaca, and to-day army wagons take back the slightly wounded and sick from here.

If you will give us the stores, we will make them useful, and will keep up the credit of the Commission. Our having them in the field, all the way from Chattanooga, and carrying them to the hospitals in the extreme front, and being fully represented by the agents of the Commission, has given it a new place in the hearts of many who had before doubted of its usefulness. But our supplies must be large. Each division, on the average, will use one box of milk a day to good advantage. This requires about 700 pounds per day.

The supply of fresh beef has been good, and promptly furnished, so that beef stock has not been in quite so much demand, but yet has been largely used. Rags and bandages are also wanted, as well as clothing. So are the arm-slings. As I write, a soldier comes in with his hand off, and he is supplied with one of them. They are of great value.

Most truly yours,

A. N. READ.

We have a depot at Dalton, Resaca, and shall open again in Kingston as soon as possible.

CHATTANOOGA, June 2, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

MY DEAR SIR—We have little time for writing, trusting to the telegraph, and send-

ing as definite information as we are permitted to do.

The demand for all battle stores and for laborers has vastly increased at the front. We have kept a good supply of stores at the front at all times, as near the army as we safely could, and on the first train to Kingston, after our army left that point, we sent forward three car loads. Three hundred car loads of army stores are ordered to that point now for yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow. We cannot have transportation to-day, but expect it to-morrow, and one more shipment will exhaust our stock. I have taken the liberty of telegraphing direct to Cincinnati, as the agents from there have requested me to do, and to Chicago, and Cleveland. All the stores you can send are needed.

Our stock of milk and whisky is now the largest of any, but we shall need more, and of everything else which will add to the comfort of sick and wounded men in the field and in the hospitals; we need large supplies as fast as they can be got through.

We are paying large amounts of postage to forward soldiers' letters from home, and packages from hospitals containing descriptive rolls and discharge papers.

I wish that through the BULLETIN, you would call especial attention of the friends of the soldier, to the necessity—

1st. Of sending no letters to the army without paying postage, under the idea that, if marked "soldiers' letter," they will go through and may be paid at the end of the route. In all cases they will be detained at the Postoffice here, and will be forwarded by no military postbag until the postage is paid.

2d. Of fully paying postage on all letters and packages. For all deficiencies double rates will be charged, and the mail matter detained until this double postage is paid.

In haste, yours truly,

M. C. READ.

CHATTANOOGA, June 5, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—

I have been through the wards of the post hospitals to-day, containing the most severely wounded. There are very many whose lives will depend upon a constant

supply of the most generous diet; and there are many, who, from their wounds, ought to die in accordance with the ordinary results of army surgery, who on a generous diet will get well—men with fractures, and amputations of the thigh, &c. Indeed, I never saw so many severely wounded men, whose prospects were so good, and the surgeon in charge attributes this, in a great degree, to the stores furnished through the Commission.

Yours, M. C. READ.

—
KINGSTON, GA., May 23, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, Sec'y U. S. San. Com.:

DEAR SIR—After a very active campaign of two weeks, we have come to a halt for a few days. In these two weeks we have marched about sixty miles, and fought four battles, in every case defeating the enemy. We have lost about five thousand in killed and wounded. It has been a series of successes. To-morrow morning the order is to march again, and with twenty days rations, leaving all who are not able for a long march. I have been with the army all the time from the first advance from Ringgold. At Tunnel Hill I immediately procured store room, and returned to Ringgold for stores and helpers. By the time the wounded began to come in to the Hospitals there, we were on the ground with our stores. Dr. Read soon came up, and all went on well. We fed hundreds of sick men, also those who were sent to the rear, and while they were waiting transportation to Chattanooga, we made and gave them coffee, &c.

At the battle of Resaca we were promptly on the ground, and with six loads of sanitary stores for those divisions that suffered most. Dr. Read and I rode through the army from the right toward the left. Monday morning, on arriving at the first Division Hospital, 4th A. C., the doctor remained, and I went on to find the 20th A. C. This was about 1 o'clock. Coming upon the extreme left, I found Hooker hotly engaged with the enemy, and just at that time the wounded were beginning to come in. I rode down toward the field of conflict, and discovered that the wounded were being brought off the field by the hundreds. (The loss in the Corps was

about twelve hundred.) I immediately found the Medical Director of the Corps, got an order from Gen. Hooker for three wagons, one for each Division Hospital, to return to Dalton, a distance of fifteen miles, and bring up battle stores. This was done promptly, and the next morning, by 8 o'clock, the stores were on the ground, and were, as many said, a God-send. I worked with all the surgeons that were within reach, those of the 4th Corps coming to assist, and also all our agents on that part of the field, till after midnight, in making the wounded comfortable. The battle ended Saturday night, after Hooker's storming and capturing the rebel fort.

The next day I went to Resaca and got rooms. The ambulances were bringing in the wounded, to be put on the cars and sent to Chattanooga. The cars were not there to receive them. The ambulances must return to the field by order of the General. There was no hospital. There were some buildings, but all were filled with rubbish. I got a detail of twelve men, and Dr. Hazen joined me in cleaning out a large building and putting the wounded into it. There were no stores, either medical or Sanitary, with which to feed the men. Neither were there at that time any commissary stores there, and the wounded were calling for something to eat. Oh, I *did* long for our stores. But the water-tanks had given out, and for a few hours the cars were detained. In the emergency, I went to the bridge building, and procured coffee for two hundred and fifty wounded, then lying on the hard floor.

The next day Dr. Coolidge came and had the field hospital brought up from Ringgold. Then I came on to this place. We have secured as promptly and fully as possible the list of deaths on battle-field and of the wounded. I shall return to my post in Nashville as soon as my place can be supplied here. I go out on this expedition with the 4th and 20th Corps. We are ordered to take thirty days' rations. This will be a long and hard march, and a very important campaign.

I must close, as Mr. Eno goes on the train to Chattanooga.

Yours respectfully,
J. C. HORLIT.

NASHVILLE, May 27, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—At the request of M. C. Read, I write you to give a short synopsis of the Sanitary work at the front. Everything was done that could be before the advance, to hurry forward stores to Chattanooga, and have them ready to send to points most needed. Dr. Read kept well up with the advance, and secured room for stores the very day the army entered Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Dalton, Resaca, and Kingston; besides this, several wagon loads were sent on to the field, and were on hand to be used when the first wounded were brought in. The Government was prompt in giving transportation, and stores were sent to each of the above places as soon as there were wounded to need them; and without the Sanitary supply, there would really have been more suffering. By the advice of the Medical Director, the stores at Kingston were returned to Resaca; at this place a sufficient quantity of staple articles will be kept to send forward at a moment's notice. There is a field hospital established, in which it is expected there will be at least one thousand for some time. On Monday there was one thousand in it, and Division Hospitals near by. The surgeons have drawn freely, and been supplied liberally; just now they are most in need of mosquito bars, ale, and sponges; there is not one sponge to ten men. These have been telegraphed for, and I hope will be forwarded.

At Dalton, the principal work has been to feed the wounded on trains passing up; they usually make long stops, and we found the men very thankful for hot coffee, beef-sonp, and crackers; about fifteen hundred men were fed there last week. Mr. Barrett, a thorough worker, is there, and does the work well. I left Dr. Read at Kingston, prepared to advance with the army; there was also an agent to go with each corps.

Mr. Collins, of the Western Sanitary Commission, got two cars through to Kingston, which came very opportunely. He gave an equal portion to each of the corps. Dr. Read added milk, beef, and stimulants. It was pleasant to see the two Commissions co-operating and working cordially together.

er. This feeling I believe can be maintained, and each Commission be made to do its full share of good.

Very respectfully,

Your friend,

EDWARD L. ENO,
Illinois State Agent.

SCENES AT "THE BASE."

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14, 1864.

DEAR MRS. —, I have just come up from the rear of the Army of the Potomac, and there will at least be some variety in my correspondence with you if I tell you what I saw at Belle Plain, instead of, as usual, repeating my *Oliver Twistian* cry of "more! more!"

The day before yesterday I started from Washington with four volunteers, two ladies and two gentlemen, three of the party being from your city; and several being accustomed to army traveling and hospital nursing. One of the ladies is the wife of one of our generals, and the other is the writer of that excellent little pamphlet—"Three Weeks at Gettysburg." The steamer we were on was well loaded with supplies—somewhere about sixty tons—and a score or two of relief agents to reinforce those already on the field and at Fredericksburg. Reaching Belle Plain—so called from its being a series of high hills—just as the twilight was setting on the beautiful and varied tints of verdure with which the last week or two of summer weather have covered its slopes, we found a repetition of the scenes I have before witnessed, at the same place, in the spring of last year, and at various other places on the Peninsula and elsewhere, during the different campaigns of the war. A couple of rudely constructed wharves, a mile or two apart, jut out into the placid waters of the broad creek, and lying against these, four or five deep, are steamers and barges of all kinds and sizes, loading and unloading so busily that you might imagine yourself on the docks of Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. Boxes, barrels, and bales pass from the holds and decks of the vessels, on the shoulders of long strings of contrabands, or on trucks, along the crazy wharf of the beach, and are there transferred to army-wagons, which, after being filled, join the procession of

similar vehicles, each drawn by four stout horses, that, with few gaps in the long road up the ascent and along its crest, wind slowly and toilsomely, as far as the eye can reach, towards Fredericksburg and the adjacent camps. So far as the vessels and wharf are concerned, the scene resembles the unloading of vessels in a seaport town; but in a seaport town one does not—in peace times at least—see hosts of uniformed and armed men tramp from the decks along the wharves to join the hosts preceding them; nor does one see regiments of troopers tugging at the reins of unmanageable horses that plunge fiercely among the swaying masses of humanity and the unflinching masses of merchandise that line their way. But what can there be to load vessels with in an out-of-the-way creek, running up into a country, from the hills of which one may look all round to the horizon without one's eye resting on a human habitation?—a permanent habitation, I should say, for every strip of land in sight that is not covered with trees is dotted with tents and bivouacs and army-wagons, beneath the canvases and boughs of which are sheltered—as much as may be in the fast-falling rain—multitudes of weary men, as if collected into houses and streets would fill many villages, and turn the wilderness into a populous town. Thank goodness, when the spectator next watches the loading of a vessel in a commercial town, he will see nothing of what he now sees at this warfaring port of Belle Plain. All day long, and the day before, and several days before that, the ascending procession of wagons filled with rations, and of infantry and cavalry that have gone to reinforce Grant, have been met by a parallel line—a little way off, for the impromptu roads are too narrow to admit of vehicles passing each other—of ambulances filled with wounded men; and it is with these men, carried on stretchers from the ambulances, that the "outward bound" vessels are loaded.

It is indeed a sad sight; but there is a great satisfaction in reflecting that one is standing in the midst of all kinds of comforts and delicacies to reinforce the stock which has already been provided for these very men; and in recognizing within hailing distance a handsome flag, inscribed

with the words, "U. S. Sanitary Commission," streaming from its staff on the deck of a portly barge, comfortably lined with numberless good things for wear and diet, at that very moment—we can imagine with a strength equal to conviction, for not even "with the aid of a powerful glass" can our point of sight enable us to discern behind the intervening boxes and barrels—under process of distribution to the poor fellows as they are carried past to the boats that are about to convey them to Washington.

It is now dark. The rain has somewhat abated, but even if it poured as much as ever it would not be possible to restrain the ladies from entering at once on their self-imposed duties. So I help them into a boat and we are rowed to the dock, and are soon on board our barge, or storeboat as it is called. But the procession of wounded men is over for the night; and those that have come before are on their way to Washington, while those *in transitu* from the battle-fields are resting in wayside stations, or in the ambulances conveying them—a poor way for wounded and sore men to pass the night, but such as the cruel necessities of war render unavoidable. Dr. Steiner tells us that the nearest of the Commission's feeding lodges is some half mile up the hill, and that its capacity will not admit of any more attendance than that which is already supplied. As the ladies came to render aid where it is needed, not to supplant that which is previously provided, they think it advisable not to wade up to the lodge knee-deep in Virginia mud, nor do they consider the cause of humanity demands the waking up of some poor fellows who are waiting the next boat, and the administering to them of pound cake, pies, and surreptitious draughts of bad whisky; so we presently get into the row-boats, and ladies are before long occupying the pilot-house—the polite and ejected captain seeking other quarters—while the men dispose themselves for the night upon the decks, those that have rubber coats or blankets to keep off the rain, now descending faster than ever—feeling their great advantage over those who, rubberless, vainly seek dry spots wherever there are no leaking places in the coiled roof.

The next morning—very early indeed,

sleeping accommodations offering few inducements to people of sybaritic tendencies—the relief agents are almost all started to Fredericksburg, and our small party enter the lists as relief agents on the spot. The scene of yesterday is renewed in all its details, and as the wounded men are borne in, hour after hour, in one long string, the pale and often blood-stained occupant of every stretcher is furnished, according to his needs, by one or other of the party, with crackers, beef-tea, coffee, wine, water, or lemonade. The wine and lemonade are given only on the advice of a medical man, and sometimes the one is intensified into brandy, and the other into the unmixed juice of lemon. But for men exhausted with lying on the battle-field for many hours, sometimes for a day or two, without food or drink, thence to the operating table and thence to the ambulance, the other things may be given, in most instances, in such quantities as they crave. Poor fellows, they clutch at them—but always with a "thank you"—as if they thought they could swallow the basket or bottle along with the contents, but a few mouthfuls is generally all they have strength to manage.

It is best for each one of such a relief party to confine oneself to the distribution of a single article, the cracker man never trenching on the lady's coffee pail, and the coffee lady leaving the beef religiously to another. Infinitely more may be done by systematically pursuing this plan of speciality. If, when the beef tea is being carried round, some poor fellow shakes his head and imploringly asks for water or stimulant, one must not set down the beef tea to be kicked over before one gets back, and rush off to spend half an hour in searching for water or stimulant, so depriving a hundred men of beef tea for the sake of trying to get something which will probably be furnished him by the allotted water or whisky bearer in three minutes after. One must humanely harden one's heart, and say with stern tenderness: "Yes, my boy, all right, a lady will be along with some delicious iced water in a minute or two," and he will probably smile and say, "Thank yon, sir, all right—I can wait. Say, mister, there's a fellow right across there—that one with his leg off, and his

head bound up—he belongs to my company—he ain't had nothing to eat since the day before yesterday. I guess he'd like some o' that ere stuff. Won't yon please give him some?"

But the giving of assistance is not all the work. One man complains of his head being too low, and his overcoat has to be rolled up—or, failing in that, the straw round him has to be gathered up to form a pillow for him. (The pallets and bedding have given out, though the first boat's load sent off were as comfortably provided for as if in the wards of a general hospital, and the men we are tending are lying on the decks on straw, but this they count luxury after the battle-field and ambulance.) Another wants a handkerchief, and another a pair of socks. This man's shirt is all torn and bloody, and must be replaced by another. One man complains of the intolerable heat, and some of his clothing must be removed; another is shivering with cold, and more clothing or an extra blanket must be provided for him. Here is one who feels the hand of death upon him, and the head of that one of our party who is with him is bent down to catch from his white lips his last message to his friends. Five minutes after, the blanket is drawn smoothly over the face, and the quiet of the lately restless limbs shows that the weary soldier has fought his last battle, and entered into his rest.

Continually through the day our party has met others engaged in a like work, but all too busy and pre-occupied to notice each other, unless to render some necessary act of joint assistance to a sufferer, till one is met who labored with some of the party at Gettysburg, and, perhaps, elsewhere. He joins us in our rounds, and when at night I ask him if he knows what has been done with the bodies of those I have seen die through the day on the boats and on the wharf, he tells me that he has helped that day to bury—and has read the funeral service—over the bodies of over sixty soldiers. He is, or is going to be, a clergyman.

We have, thus, administering to the poor fellows' needs, traversed the decks and cabins and every foot of superficies, available for the ontstretched or partially re-

cumbent form of a man, of four vessels; and now for some cause there is a lull in the arrivals and the turmoil. This gives us time to look at our watches, and to our amazement we find it is five o'clock, instead of eleven or twelve, as we fancied. Thereupon we apprehend it is no wonder we are faint, considering we have been working so hard all day on our six o'clock breakfast of crackers and ham. A sumptuous repast of crackers is not indeed the magnificent Boston edible, but a softer and inferior sort—coffee is forthwith disposed of, and during the repast we discover that there is a suspension of ambulances and stretchers to allow the passage of some thousands of rebel prisoners from Dixie to the land of the free in Fort Delaware and elsewhere—the freedom of such strongholds being the kind they seem most to appreciate. Pretty soon there marched along, under guard, three men dressed in rebel grey and unarmed. Except for the black feather, cavalier fashion, across the front of the hat, and for the three stars on the upturned collar of one of them, they might have been taken, so far as dress was concerned, for privates, but these insignia showed the rank of a Brigadier-General in the Confederate service. This was General Stuart, a handsome fellow, some thirty-five years old, I should judge; and who endeavored to conceal his feelings beneath a jaunty and somewhat defiant manner. His older companion, wrapped up in a grey overcoat, without any insignia of rank visible, and whose grizzly hair showed through sundry rents in the most "shocking bad hat" I ever saw, is Major-General Johnson; and the third prisoner is his adjutant-general. Being brought to a halt they sit down on some boxes, and Johnson draws from his pocket a copy of the *Washington Morning Chronicle*, and picking out the war news, reads something in a low tone to Stuart, who nervously laughs. Not placing implicit confidence myself in the war news of most of our newspapers, I fancy they may have discovered some slight mistake, and therefore feel no inclination to resent their railery; but the crowd around are not so lenient, probably thinking strongly on the subject of Belle Island and Fort Pillow; and the murmurs increase until there is, for a minute, dan-

ger of violence being offered to the prisoners; but a few stern words from the captain of the guard, and the ringing of the bayonets of the latter, soon restores order, and the Generals and Adjutant are marched quietly off to the boat that is to convey them to Fort Delaware or wherever else. In a little while they are followed by a multitude of rebel officers—four hundred in number, it is said—of every rank, from colonel to second lieutenant, but none with any marks of rank detectable except in few cases where the coat collar was turned up, where one or two more dandified than the rest had decorated the lapels of their coats with their insignia. At first I thought they were privates; for, even apart from their dress, they presented, in the mass, little evidence of superiority to the rank and file of our men: but I was told that the large body of their fellow prisoners of the rank and file who followed them—they came shortly after, but I was too busy to look at them—were decidedly inferior to them in all respects. One of them, almost a boy, entered into a political argument with one of his guard, an old sergeant from New York who stood by me, embracing the questions of slavery, the constitutional right of secession, etc.; and which, notwithstanding my suggestion that if verbal argument had proved of any avail to settle the difference between the North and the South they would not have been called upon to fight each other, finally grew general and warm, and was only finished by the party being marched off to their quarters.

The arrival of the prisoners had brought a new set of claimants on the stores of the Commission—not wounded nor sick, but very hungry men, who had been guarding the prisoners since the evening before, and many of whom had nothing to eat during that time. Considering that the mission of the Commission, like that of quinine, is not only curative, but rather and mainly prophylactic, I dispensed to them of crackers according to their needs; but they made no demand of course on the delicacies.

Meanwhile the rest of the party had renewed on another boat which was preparing to leave, and was fast being filled up with fresh arrivals of wounded, their labors of the fore part of the day. I returned hither

with a boat load of wounded, leaving Belle Plain between 10 and 11 P. M., and getting to Washington in the early morning.

When I left it was quite dark, and after helping my last case aboard—a handsome boy who told me he would be “seventeen come next birth-day”—and changing the shirt he had not changed for three weeks, after washing away from a wound in his side the blood that soiled the skin, looking so fair and white beneath in contrast to his sunburnt face and neck, I watched for a few minutes the scene spread out before me as the vessel receded from the dock. All over the water twinkled the lights from the many vessels, some stationary, and some steaming to and fro, while far up the hillsides gleamed the lights through the canvas of the tents, giving the appearance of a large city illuminated for some festival, the effect being heightened by the broad and high flickering flames of innumerable camp fires, like so many *feux-de-joie*. So we steamed up the quiet river, passing by and by the house of the great man who so toilsomely won for his national children the rich heritage some of them would now rend asunder; and the moon, struggling every now and then through the clouds which still sailed across the sky, looked down on the white faces and ghastly wounds of those whom their brothers had stricken down. The night watch was but a repetition of the work of the day, and during its weary hours the same wonderful fortitude amid their wounds and sufferings was observable; hardly a groan or sigh to be heard, except from two or three who were delirious; and even as I sat by the driver on the ambulance which conveyed some of them from the Washington wharf to the hospital to which they were assigned, I only heard a low moan now and then, as the horses struggled through the pitfalls of the city of magnificent distances.

My next letter will be written to you, I think, from Fredericksburg, and I will finish this by calling your attention to the care with which I have kept my promise of not asking for more. Nevertheless, after premising that the medico-military authorities caution us not to be too profuse at the beginning, for that the real fighting has not yet begun, I cannot do less than point

my story with a moral; but what the moral is, I will leave to your own reflections.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

ALFRED J. BLOOR,

Assistant Secretary.

ISSUES OF STORES TO THE ARMY IN VIRGINIA.

The following statement shows the issues made by the U. S. Sanitary Commission to the Armies of Virginia in the field during the month of May, 1861:

130 air cushions.
10 air beds.
3,541 bed ticks.
265 bed pans.
2,932 blankets.
271 chamberpots.
912 candlesticks.
2,504 combs, coarse.
1,720 " fine.
5,817 cushions.
110 head rents.
376 lanterns.
315 medicine cups.
288 " tubes.
268 pcs. mosquito netting.
162 rolls oil silk.
3,394 pillows.
1,421 pillow cases.
3,300 pillow ticks.
1,369 quilts.
654 ring cushions.
1,416 sheets.
265 spittoons.
494 spit cups.
7,798 towels.
5,408 tin cups.
1,223 tin wash basins.
1,863 tin plates.
262 urinals.
144 mattresses.
1,114 knives and forks.
2,903 spittoons.
45 stove-burners.
100 sippers.
3,327 pcs. cotton drawers.
12,304 pcs. woolen drawers.
14,931 handkerchiefs.
2,450 forage, (oats) bushels.
15,000 lbs. hay.
6 bbls. salt beef.
6 cases desiccated veg.
1,867 lbs. ham.
12 shaving brushes.
12 razors.
127 lbs. lard.
67 pcs. cotton pants.
6,493 cotton shirts.
19,507 woolen shirts.
472 abous.
2,909 sippers.
3,208 cotton socks.
9,451 woolen socks.
646 wrappers.
695 pairs.
67 canes.
6 pocket flasks.
30 cots.
39 bbls. ale. [See porter.]
144 bottles ale.
11 bbls. dried apples.
160 lbs. arrow root.
8,163 lbs. beef stock.
2,514 bottles brandy.
4,832 lbs. canned meat.
2,254 lbs. canned fruit.
4,252 lbs. canned veg. tables.
312 bottles cherry rum.
326 lbs. cocoa.
5,544 lbs. sweet chocolate.
1,266 lbs. ext. coffee. [See Coffee.]
940 lbs. dried beef.
22 hammocks.
40 axes.
18 hand saws.
44 hatchets.
463 lbs. nails.
38 shovels.
9 spades.
3,106 lbs. ground coffee.
18,912 lbs. condensed milk.
333 bbls. crackers.
3,567 lbs. corn starch.
13 bbls. corn meal.
2 bbls. dried peaches.
2,626 bottles ext. ginger.
6,480 lbs. farina.
24 packages gelatina.
48 bottles gin.
62 bot. jellies and preserves.
408 boxes lemons.
660 bottles lemon syrup.
1,454 lbs. marmalade.
350 lbs. mustard.
29 lbs. nutmegs.
2,344 lbs. oat meal.
942 gals. pickles.
70 bbls. porter.
90 " potatoes.
400 lbs. rice.
12 bottles N. E. rum.
1,064 " Jamaica rum.
11,804 lbs. sugar.
119 lbs. spices.
511 1/2 gals. tamarinds.
1,400 lbs. black tea.
1,200 lbs. green tea.
3,306 lbs. tobacco.
258 gals. vinegar.
24 bot. raspberry vinegar.
3,066 bots. foreign wine.
110 coffee pots.
2 bbls. flour.
13 reams wrapping paper.
182 galls. molasses.
17 1/2 galls. kerosene oil.
1 chest.
1 screw-driver.
12 gimlets.
975 bottles domestic wine.
8,529 bottles whiskey.
23 galls. whisky.
940 bottles alcohol.
88 bbls. bandages.
662 bottles bay rum.
1,047 body bands.
5 boxes books.
620 bottles cologne.
2,843 crutches.
7,750 fans.
51 games.
21 bbls. lint.
29 bbl. old linen.
2,266 slings.
953 lbs. soap.
309 1/2 lbs. sponges.
1,943 lbs. candles.
3,828 lbs. butter.
1,445 lbs. cheese.
3,619 doz. eggs.
5,387 loaves bread.
735 papers pins.
21,325 envelopes.
320 bottles ink.
54 reams writing paper.
6,328 pencils.

3 1/2 lbs. ligature silk.
150 haversacks.
84 blowers.
100 hospital car loops.
8 water coolers.
2 lbs. bromine.
59 lbs. patent lint.
24 dressing fauceps.
16 papers tacks.
100 yards wire.
6 door mats.
1 gross needles.
55 lbs. mutton tallow.
1 piece sheeting.
1 refrigerator.
2 stove boilers.
20 boxes chlorinum.
6 boxes clothing.
6 rocking chairs.
57 bottles cider.
12 fauceis.
2 fauce augurs.
1 pump.
242 canterns.
72 boxes blacking.
262 boxes sardines.
300 paper bags.
3 washing machines.
12 blank books.
97 1/2 tons ice.
12 bottles coppers.
2 bottles chloride soda.
2 medicine chests.
4 stove brushes.
1 bbl. salt pork.
12 stew pans.
12 frying pans.
2,309 lbs. fresh beef.
36 four-horse wagons, with harness, whips, extra whiffletrees, &c., complete.
156 two-horse wagons, do.

The following anti-scorbutic stores were sent from New York and stored in Baltimore. About one-third of these were loaded on board the *Itidley*, and taken to Norfolk in tow of the *Kent*.

4,291 galls. pickled tomatoes.
51,812 lbs. canned tomatoes.
1,108 galls. curried cabbage.
671 bbls. dried apples.
15,164 galls. sour kraut.
4,162 galls. pickles.
3,569 galls. pickled onions.
12,069 lbs. apple pulp.
2,490 boxes portable lemonade.
1 tub apple butter.
1 doz. ginger wine.

REV. DR. WINSLOW.

A large circle of friends and the public will deeply mourn the death of the Rev. Gordon Winslow, M. D., of the Sanitary Commission. He fell overboard from a transport, on the morning of the 7th of June, and was drowned in the Potomac. At the time he was accompanying his wounded son, Col. Cleveland Winslow, (Dur-yea Zouaves,) to Washington, and was engaged in various duties attendant upon his position.

Dr. Winslow was born in Vermont, in 1804, prepared for Yale College at Andover, Mass., and graduated at that institution. Soon after his attention was drawn to the Episcopal Church, and he became rector of a church in Troy, New York, and subsequently in Annapolis. Afterwards, he was for many years rector of St. Paul's, Staten Island, and Chaplain of the Quar-

antine. At the outbreak of the rebellion he was appointed Chaplain of the Duryea Zouaves, and accompanied that regiment in all its trying scenes and hard-fought battles. He was distinguished for his bravery, and his services gained for him high credit and renown among the army. He also served on the Sanitary Commission, and when his regiment returned last year he was appointed Inspector of the Army of the Potomac. His efficiency and valuable services will not soon be forgotten.

DR. WINSLOW possessed a fine social nature, full of good heart and noble soul. His traits of character were remarkably well blended. All his motives and plans were of a high and noble cast. His mind was acute, active and fertile. He was thoroughly conversant with literature and science, and he often contributed for the press and various literary publications. But he has departed, cut down in the midst of usefulness, and his loss will be felt by friends and the public. A pure and true-minded man, sincere Christian, noble soul, and generous nature have passed from earth to Heaven. Dr. Winslow leaves a wife and two sons, both of whom are officers in the army. He was a brother of the Rev. Hubbard Winslow, D. D., and of the eminent missionary, Dr. Myron Winslow.

THE PHILADELPHIA FAIR.

The buildings for the fair are enormous, occupying all of Logan Square, a space of nearly six by five hundred feet. There are ninety separate departments in the fair, and to travel through each will be about a two-mile walk to the anxious spectator. A fifty cent ticket admits a visitor to eighty-one of these departments, the other nine are extra. They are as follows, and the admittance to each is as specified:

Art Gallery.....	25 cents.
Horticulture	25 "
Indian Department	25 "
Signor Blitz.....	25 "
Arms and Trophies	20 "
Relics and Curiosities... ..	20 "
William Penn Parlor.....	10 "
Skating Pond.....	10 "
Divan.....	10 "

Total..... \$1 70

For the sum of \$2 20 a visitor sees the whole "sight," which may be truly designated a miniature world.

The buildings are light, airy, and comfortable; far more pleasant inside than their appearance outside would betoken. The decorations

inside are most complete, the several wings being gaily planned in red, white, and blue, presenting pleasing, patriotic, and beautiful pictures. Standing at the main or eastern entrance of the great arched building known as "Union Hall," we have to our right and left the sections for Delaware and New Jersey, and directly in front a continuous view to the extent of five hundred feet of Gothic archway, the base line being sixty-four feet, and the apex being an elevation of fifty feet.

The large collection of banners, flags, and paintings have been used with admirable judgment, and the firemen may well challenge comparison with the decorations in any other department. The goods offered for sale in this portion of the building are among the most attractive of the fair. Union Avenue contains a great variety of articles, and as the exhibitors have been left to their own fancy in the matter of decorations for the counters and shelves, the display is varied, and no better place could have been selected for the opening ceremonies.

For the accommodation of the speakers, invited guests, &c., a large platform was erected in the western end of the avenue, which was decorated in keeping with the main body of the hall. The crowd began to pour in long before the time announced for the commencement of proceedings, and when the hour of four arrived every spot along the whole avenue was occupied. The scene presented was most pleasing indeed, especially to those who were favored with a position on the platform, where they could freely scan all before them. The exercises were opened by music, "Hail Columbia," by a full orchestra.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Dr. Alexander McDonald, Inspector United States Sanitary Commission, in letter of June 2d, Bermuda Hundred, says: "We have just arrived at the Hundred, 9 A. M. Stopped last night at Wilson's Landing, and left sauer kraut, potatoes and onions for the forces there and at Fort Powhatan, and are now making arrangements for having supplies at Bermuda Hundred."

SOLDIER'S HOME AT CAIRO.

The reports for the five weeks ending May 2nd, show, that during that period 10,423 men were admitted; 7,911 lodgings, and 20,305 meals were furnished, while transportation was procured for 829.

The advance of Sherman's Army into Georgia, leaving a very long line through a wasted country in his rear, will render the establishment of a number of new "Homes" along it necessary.

OUR CONSULS ABROAD,

The European Branch in Paris of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, have frequently had occasion to acknowledge the valuable aid rendered by the American Consuls in Europe to the Commission, and have made particular mention, in this relation of James O. Putnam, Consul at Havre; Mr. Thaddens Hyatt, at Rochelle; and Mr. James Lesby, at Lyons.

Our countryman, Mr. John R. Tait, resident at Durseldorf, has, by unceasing exertions, obtained very large and valuable donations from a great number of noble-minded and generous artists in that place.

A LESSON WELL LEARNT.

From Charles Dickens's "All the Year Round."

When the shadow of death hung over the Italian campaign, from which Italy knew how to take more liberty than it was meant that she should have, a citizen of Geneva, M. Henri Dunant, had his heart strengthened for noble labors by the recollection of the work done by Florence Nightingale in the Crimea. If there must be wars, why may they not be fought out by civilized nations with common recognition of the common duties of humanity? What if there were a General European Sanitary Commission? By his energetic labor competent men of many countries were brought together last year in the International Congress upon this question at Geneva—our Inspector General of Hospitals, then representing Great Britain, by authority of our Secretary of War, with competent official deputies from France, and from Austria, and from Russia, and from Prussia, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden and Hesse, Hanover and Holland.

We know not what may come of the movement thus commenced, but we are glad to learn, from a little book called "A Woman's Example and a Nation's Work," (published by Ridgway,) that in the midst of all the miseries of civil war in America, the lesson taught by Florence Nightingale has not been lost upon a kindred people. The newspapers tell all the battle stories, and have enabled us to sip full of the horrors of the strife. Of the pity, and the deeds of mercy it engenders, we have not been told all we might hear.

The women on each side connected themselves at the outbreak of the war with the great work of healing and solace. The South has assuredly and certainly not been behind the North in generous self-sacrifice, but from the South few records come to us as yet; at present it is only of what has been done in the North that we can tell the tale.

The women began their work of mercy by filling churches, schoolrooms, and the large houses of many wealthy persons, with lint-scrapers, cutters, folders, and packers of the linen they gave to the use of the wounded. Then they organized themselves, first in New York, into a "Woman's Central Association of Relief;" like bodies were constituted elsewhere, and advice was sought from men of experience. They were advised to ascertain what government could and would do in the direction to which their work tended, then to work with it, and by their own liberality of gifts and labor, supplement its unavoidable short-comings. The clergyman of New York who was foremost in giving this counsel, the Rev. Dr. Bellows, accompanied by three of the chief physicians of New York, Drs. Van Buren, Harris, and Harsen, went, therefore, in deputation to Washington for conference with the Secretary of War. They represented not only the "Woman's Central Association," but also the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospitals, and the New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies in aid of the Army. The three bodies were all acting harmoniously together in turning to the best account the free gifts from the city and State of New York, designed in aid of the comfort and security of the troops. They petitioned for some rigor in inspection of volunteers, that unsuitable persons might not be sent to certain death in the Army; the Woman's Association was about to send for service in the general hospitals of the Army one hundred picked and trained female nurses, and they asked that the War Department should be content to receive on wages during actual duty as many of such nurses as the exigencies of the campaign might require. They suggested, also, the appointment of a Sanitary Commission, which President Lincoln scoffed at as a "fifth wheel to the military coach." This memorial was very coldly received by the War Department and the Medical Bureau of the Army. The United States Sanitary Commission, which has by this time turned to right use in works of health and mercy, voluntary contributions amounting to about two millions of money, got its first lift towards existence in a note of recommendation from Dr. R. C. Wood, Acting Surgeon General to the United States Army.

The four delegates then at once sent in a sketch of the plan of such a Commission, specifying all they asked for it from the Government; no new legal powers whatever, and none of the public money; but simply official public recognition during the war, or until it should be found unserviceable, and a room in one of the public buildings in Washington or elsewhere, with station-

ery and other insignia of a recognized public office. The object of the desired Commission would be "to bring to bear upon the health, comfort and morale of the troops, the fullest and ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to military life;" directing particular attention, for example, to the material of the volunteer force, and to such subjects as diet and cookery, clothing, and precaution against damp, cold, heat, malaria, infection, &c.; tents, camping ground, transports, transitory depots with their exposures, camp police; organization of hospitals, hospital supplies, regulations of the patriotic service of the capable women offering themselves as nurses; the questions of ambulances, of field service, of extra medical aid, and whatever else relates to the care or cure of the sick and wounded.

Reluctant consent was at last given to the establishment of such a Commission, in a document of which the last paragraph thus expressed the official contempt it excited: "The Commission will exist until the Secretary of War shall otherwise direct, *unless sooner dissolved by its own action.*" It is something to know that there is a circumlocution office across the Atlantic.

Yet at that time the army, suddenly quadrupled, was deficient in the commonest requisites of clothing, bedding, and hospital staff, while the local-soldier's aid societies founded in different districts for the succor each of its own peculiar body of volunteers; bewildered by the marchings and counter-marchings of the distant regiments, were wasting much good energy. One of the first difficult labors of the Commission was to prove to these local bodies the shortsightedness of their provincial allies, and get them to throw all their resources into the organization of one common national work. One by one the work of woman's love that strove to follow the particular fortunes of brothers and friends was gathered into one great national effort, and the local aid societies became branches of the Commission, with Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted for its secretary, that strove to secure the well-being of the Army, and detect the more unwholesome blots upon its discipline wherever they might be. Influential men in every part of the country now became unpaid advocates of the Commission as "Associate Members;" circulars, setting forth the wants of the Army, were widely diffused; sanitary agitation was kept up; directors of insurance companies were made to understand their interest in the well-being and the health of the volunteer.

Then it was found necessary to break down the exclusiveness of State sovereignty, and, for right organization of the conveyance of the bales provided for use of the sick, establish central depots for districts,

determined not by political predilections, but by the course of railways, rivers and canals. One hundred and twenty towns thus became auxiliary to Cleveland in Ohio, and twelve hundred and twenty-six accepted the City of New York as their centre. The Commission sent also sanitary inspectors to the camps and camp hospitals, and has received and tabulated some fifteen hundred of their reports, each consisting of answers to a set of one hundred and eighty printed questions.

Meanwhile, the Government had taken no step towards the organization for war purposes of the Medical Bureau, beyond the appointment of a Surgeon General, who at once pronounced against the Sanitary Commission, and declared that "he would have nothing to do with it;" for it was "a perilous conception to allow any such outside body to come into being." The Commission, however, having been already authorized by Government, he consented to its action for the volunteers, on condition that it never meddled with the regular troops.

This wonderful gentleman confined himself to the maintenance of every old regulation, and resisted every attempt at "innovation" to adapt what might have sufficed for the case of a bush-lighting army of twelve thousand, to the greater needs of a tremendous civil war. So there arose civil war between the Sanitary Commission and the Surgeon General; and the Commission, working by deputations to the Government, complaints from Army officers, and memorials to Congress, procured the passing of a bill, drawn up by its own Executive Committee, reorganizing fundamentally the Medical Department of the Army, appointing a body of General Inspectors, and substituting for the old system of seniority, promotion for competency without regard to grade or age. This victory over routine having been won, the Commission itself sought the most competent man for Surgeon General, and endeavored to forestall any chance of an appointment by favoritism into which the Secretary of War might be tempted. The Commission again won its battle, and secured the promotion of Dr. W. A. Hammond, Assistant Surgeon on the Medical Staff, to the post of Surgeon General, an advance from the rank of first lieutenant, with charge of a single hospital, to that of brigadier general, with the entire control of the Medical Department of the Army. With its own man—a competent man, who had every reason to be grateful to it—thus in authority, the Sanitary Commission had its way made very straight. Dr. Hammond revised his list of subordinates with a bold hand, got rid of the obstructive and incompetent men, and honestly sought the best help in organization of hospitals, foundation of an army medical

school, and so forth. Before the civil war, the United States Army rivalled the Austrian in exclusiveness and firm adherence to routine; and who can tell what tales of pestilence we might have heard, but for the victory thus won on behalf of women's work in time of peril?

A part of the business of the Sanitary Commission was to diffuse gratuitously among the army surgeons, practical pamphlets of information upon military hygiene, and the most important points of army medicine and surgery. Such pamphlets were the "Directions to Army Surgeons on the Battle-field," by our own Guthrie, and the "Advice as to Camping," issued by the British Sanitary Commission at the time of the Crimean War; pamphlets on "Pain and Anæsthetics," and on "Hæmorrhage from Wounds, and the best Means of Arresting it," by the father of American surgery, Dr. Valentine Mott; pamphlets on Army vaccination, amputations, treatment of fractures, scurvy, fevers, &c. The largely increased number of Army surgeons had to be drawn from civil life, and really needed information as to the new forms of practice in the field; while everywhere the teachings of Florence Nightingale were actively diffused. Again, over the wide surface of the States involved in war, there was great variation of latitude, and almost every imaginable difference of ground, producing local differences in the character and aspect of disease. Special investigation was made of this subject, not only for the information of the Medical Staff, but as a necessary guide to the right distribution of the requisite supplies.

When, at the beginning of the war, the lines of action corresponded with the course of navigable rivers, floating hospitals accompanied the armies. Here, with perhaps five hundred or a thousand sick soldiers arranged in a single river steamer, well-born American women and some English volunteers were fearless and faithful nurses. Let us see them at work. A lady speaks:

"We were called to go on board the *Wissahickon*, from thence to the Sea Shore, and run down in the latter to West Point, to bring off twenty-five men said to be lying there sick and destitute. Two doctors went with us. After hunting an hour for the Sea Shore in vain, and having got as low as Cumberland, we decided (*see* being Mrs. — and I, for the doctors were new and docile, and glad to leave the responsibility upon us women,) to push on to the tug, rather than leave the men another night on the ground, as a heavy storm of wind and rain had been going on all day. The pilot remonstrated, but the captain approved; and if the firemen had not suddenly let out the fires, and detained us two hours, we might have got our men on board and returned comfortably soon after dark. But

the delay lost us the precious daylight. It was night before the last man was got on board. There were fifty-six of them—ten very sick ones. The boat had a little shelter cabin. As we were laying mattresses on the floor, whilst the doctors were finding the men, the captain stopped us, refusing to let us put typhoid fever below the deck, on account of the crew, he said, and threatened to push off at once from the shore. Mrs. — and I looked at him. I did the terrible and she the pathetic, and he abandoned the contest. The return passage was rather an anxious one. The river is much obstructed with sunken ships and trees; the night was dark, and we had to feel our way, slackening speed every ten minutes. If we had been alone it wouldn't have mattered; but to have fifty men, unable to move, upon our hands, was too heavy a responsibility not to make us anxious. The captain and pilot said the boat was leaky, and remarked awfully 'that the water was six fathoms deep about there; but we saw their motive and were not scared. We were safe alongside the Spaulding by midnight; but Mr. Olmsted's tone of voice, as he said, 'You don't know how glad I am to see you,' showed how much he had been worried. And yet it was the best thing we could have done, for three, perhaps five, of the men would have been dead before morning. To-day (Sunday,) they are living, and likely to live."

A plan for the swift construction of a good receiving hospital, the notion of great soup caldrons on wheels for feeding the sick and wounded after battle, scrupulous inspection, active agitation and investigation of the question of what is to be done in the future with the disabled soldiers of three years of war, are among the wholesome work of the Commission, which has been able, after every great battle, to dispatch a voluntary contribution of necessities, in addition to the provision made by the Medical Department of the Army. Thus, after the second battle of Bull Run—when General Pope's army, with a loss of sixteen thousand in killed and wounded, was in retreat—the Confederates had captured forty-three wagon loads of medical stores. Within three days, sixteen wagon loads of drugs and medicines, the gift of the country through the Sanitary Commission, were at the disposal of the army; and at Centerville, on the road from Bull Run to Washington, the Commission's agents served out to the wounded, who came fainting in by hundreds, hot beef tea, soup and bread, and stimulants—gathered them into ambulances or hospitals—and otherwise helped them on to Washington. The Commission has always extended such help alike to friend or foe; the wounded Confederate who has been captured has been simply regarded as a sufferer.

These laborers on behalf of humanity, even work under fire in the field relief corps that trot up their light wagons with stores, bandages, or other aid to the surgeons, wherever men fall fastest, and after the battle hunt indefatigably for the straggling wounded. The Commission has organized, also, a distinct department of Special Relief for care of the sick among newly-arrived regiments; for providing temporary and gratuitous shelter and food to the soldier honorably discharged, while he is waiting in any city for his papers and his pay; for helping the helpless soldier in any conceivable way, by acting as his unpaid agent, or attorney; for protecting him against sharpers, or getting railway tickets at reduced rates. With such views soldiers' "Homes" have been established throughout the North, and at the principal Home in Washington, about a hundred thousand nights' lodgings, and three or four hundred thousand meals, have been gratuitously provided. The Commission has obtained Homes, too, for its own and the Army's nurses when not in attendance on the sick, or preparing to depart for distant stations. Finally, the Commission charged itself with the duty of seeing that every soldier is decently buried, with a headstone over his grave, and that a record is kept of the place of burial; or, that his body is forwarded to his friends.

The funds that support all this good work are voluntary gifts. The people of California sent, in one sum, the gold of their soil to the value of a hundred thousand pounds English money. Sanitary fairs have been lately held at different towns, at Chicago, Cincinnati, Rochester, Washington, &c. Brooklyn Fair lately contributed four hundred thousand dollars; and from the great fair held at New York, a million dollars were expected.

The Commission works openly; any one who will, may inspect its books. It pays its officers, buys wagons, charters ships, feeds horses and mules, pays rent of offices and warehouses, yet the entire cost of its management is under three per cent. of its income. When, at the battle of Gettysburg, a wagon load of the Commissioners' stores was captured, with three of its agents, the Secretary of the Commission asked and obtained from the Confederate authorities their release, on the ground that they were non-combatants, and that throughout the war "the Sanitary Commission had never made any distinction in its benevolence between friend and foe."

If any one would estimate the value of such work in pursuance of a good example, let him remember that Miss Nightingale and the Crimean Commission found the British army in the East dying from disease at the rate of sixty per cent., or more

than half its whole strength, in the year; and that, sanitary care having been taken, the death rate was reduced in the last five months of the campaign to twelve in a thousand! The army was made fifty-two times healthier! Our whole average yearly loss by disease in the Peninsular war, was a hundred and thirteen in a thousand; and the sanitary reforms made by Lord Herbert in the home life of our infantry are saving us now, every year, one life in every hundred men. The whole loss in our army by all diseases has been less in each of the last four years than it used to be from diseases of the lungs alone.

Most nobly have the American people struggled to amend this part of the record of their own disastrous struggle. We read much of sharp trading and selfish grasping, of boots with paper soles, and other cruel dealings of the wooden antineg school; but the support given by the American people, (not the American contractors,) to their armies, through the Sanitary Commission, tells a nobler tale. Thus, for example, it may seem a small matter that the Commission makes part of its preventive work to consist in the raising of fresh vegetables for Army use; but without fresh vegetables troops can hardly be saved from scurvy. Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, a distinguished Medical Inspector in the army of Rosencrans, expressed, in a report, his full belief that "one barrel of potatoes per annum is to the Government equal to one man." At one time, when the success of the Western Army, in a hazardous operation, was becoming helpless, by reason of scurvy among the troops, and when the consequent advertisement of a commissary for fifty thousand bushels of potatoes, and a corresponding supply of other vegetables, found no trader able or willing to be responsible for their delivery, the Commission set to work, and, collecting voluntary gifts in kind from the fields and gardens of the districts, supplied gratuitously, within a month, six thousand barrels of fresh vegetables, restored the health of the troops, and so, though a non-combatant, did really, by a brisk discharge of potatoes, change in that campaign the fortune of the war.

HOW BROOKLYN MONEY GOES.

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Union:

The undersigned citizens of Brooklyn and New York, sympathizing deeply with the intense interest that exists in the hearts of our citizens to know to what extent this institution has been enabled to afford aid and comfort to the sick and wounded of the Army of the Potomac, since they crossed the Rapidan, visited the Headquarters of the Commission during their recent visit to Washington, to solicit information as to the details of their labors, &c. Their records

were submitted to us for inspection, and every facility afforded to give us an insight into all the departments of their work. We feel it a duty as well as a privilege to lay before the public the information we thus obtained, especially as in consequence of the engrossing labors of the members—officers and agents of the Commission, night and day, the last three weeks—in providing for the emergency forced upon them, by the series of battles which have occurred, but little official information as to the extent and variety of their labors in behalf of the wounded and sick of our brave defenders has been made public. It is proper to say that we do this without intimation or solicitation from any one, and only because we believe the simple statement of facts communicated to us will give comfort and consolation to many anxious and bleeding hearts.

[The writers here quote entire the letter of Mr. Van Ingen, published in No. 15.]

The following extracts from the diary of one of the principal agents of the Commission at Washington will help the reader to form an idea as to the extent of the supplies furnished by the Commission:

“Monday, May 9.—Reliable information just received that the wounded were to come by way of Belle Plain. The loading of the Rapley, which had been already commenced, was completed, and a barge was chartered to carry horses and wagons.

Tuesday, May 10.—The Mary F. Rapley sailed with from eighty to one hundred tons of stores on board, and sixty relief agents, in charge of Dr. Agnew, Dr. Steiner, and Mayor Fay, of Chelsea. Mrs. Hubbard and Miss Gillson, who have long served with the army in the field, went also. The Rapley had in tow a barge loaded with twenty-one horses and five large wagons, for transportation of the stores from Belle Plain to the army.

Wednesday, May 11.—Three boat loads of wounded arrived and were fed. The barge Washington was chartered and loaded with sixteen horses, four wagons and forage, and sailed in the afternoon in tow of the tug Governor Curtin. Twenty-four relief agents went down by Government transport. In the afternoon the Rapley returned.

Thursday, May 12.—The Rapley sailed again, having been loaded in the night with from eighty to one hundred tons of stores. Dr. Fairchild went with her, in charge of thirty relief agents.

Friday, May 13.—Twenty relief agents went down in Government boat.

Saturday, May 14.—The steamboat Phoenix chartered, loaded with hospital stores, lumber, and a construction corps to build a small wharf, if needed, and storehouse.

Mr. Knapp went with the Phoenix, in

charge of thirty-two relief agents. The schooner Sarah Lavinia was offered to the Commission free of charge, by a citizen of the place, for temporary use, and is being loaded. The Rapley arrived.

Sunday, May 15.—The Rapley loaded again this forenoon and dispatched. The Sarah Lavinia sailed.

Monday, May 16.—The Rapley arrived in the night, was loaded again to-day and sailed. The Phoenix arrived, was reloaded and sent off. The Rapley took down five wagons and twenty horses, besides hospital stores.

Tuesday, May 17.—All quiet.

Wednesday, May 18.—The Rapley arrived last night. The Phoenix also came in. No departures. Horses and wagons being bought to send to-morrow. Dr. Jenkins went to the front.

Thursday, May 19.—The Phoenix and Rapley sailed at about ten o'clock, the former with five wagons and twenty horses, the Rapley loaded with stores only.

A barge was chartered to be loaded with more teams.

Friday, May 20.—The barge sailed with ten wagons and forty horses. Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Agnew returned with the Phoenix.

So much for the work that has been done here, and besides all this our agents have been constantly on the watch at the landing for the Government boats, so as to be ready to feed the wounded as they arrived.

The surgeons of the hospital transports State of Maine and Connecticut expressed their gratitude to the Commission for what had been done on board their boats, the latter saying he did not know what he should have done without the Commission.

Our agents who were at the front say that the wounded at Fredericksburg depend largely and constantly upon the Commission.

G. C. C.

On the 21st of May one of our company left Washington with Dr. Knapp, the Assistant Secretary of the Commission, on the steamer Mary F. Rapley, to visit Belle Plain, the base of supplies for our army. On our arrival there in the evening, some four hundred wounded soldiers were being transferred from the ambulance train to the barge, and the agents of the Commission were on hand, distributing to every ambulance all needed supplies of stimulants, food, &c. At six o'clock on the morning of the 22d inst., thirty-one wagons, fully loaded (four horses each) with sanitary stores, left Belle Plain for Fredericksburg. The Sanitary Commission had an ample supply of large tents at Belle Plain for the accommodation of their nurses, agents, and for preparing coffee, stimulants, &c., for the wounded, in addition to a large barge filled with assorted sanitary stores, and large tents to store their supplies as received from the steamers.

On the evening of the 22d inst., telegrams were received at Belle Plain that the base of supplies would be at once changed to Port Royal. We conclude with extracts showing, in part, the operations of the Commission since the 23d:

SANITARY COMMISSION, CENTRAL OFFICE, }
No. 264 F STREET, WASHINGTON, May 27, 1864: }

"A train of twenty-nine wagons having gone from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg with supplies, the balance of all supplies were loaded on the barges, the tents struck and stored, the wooden feeding station taken down and packed in the hold of the boat, the various lost boxes of the soldiers taken on board, and the Rapley started for Port Royal.

In the meantime, the wounded coming down from Fredericksburg by way of Aquia Creek, were fed there before going on to the boats, and supplies with relief agents put on board each of the boats going to Washington.

On the 24th, the tug-boat Governor Curtin, after carrying additional stores and agents to Aquia Creek for service on the boats of wounded, took the storeboat Kennedy, with eight more relief agents, and started for Port Royal, at 3 P. M., the other barge loaded being in tow of a Government tug.

At Fredericksburg the work of relief continued till May 26th, in the afternoon. The stores were then quite abundant and the numbers needing aid decreasing, yet relief was given each day to many.

The wounded gathered at Falmouth preparatory to taking the cars for Aquia Creek, were cared for day and night, and the suffering unavoidably incident to such a hurried move, greatly alleviated by various ministrations.

Some twenty-six horses of the Commission with wagons, were furnished three days since to the Quartermaster to enable him to go out into the "Wilderness" to look up wounded, a report having come in that some of the wounded were still there. These wagons had not returned on the morning of the 26th.

26th.—All the wounded removed from Fredericksburg. A train of wagons is to start for Port Royal. The Kent and Rapley, both chartered by the Commission, run up for Port Royal to Fredericksburg and take on some of the relief corps. The Kent takes on also 100 wounded men.

Others of the relief corps go on two large hospital transports, which are admirably fitted up by Government, as nurses on the trip from Fredericksburg to Washington. At Washington, meantime, a corps of twenty relief agents have been busily at work on the boats running between Aquia Creek and Washington. These boats being called in for temporary service, were not fitted up by Government for transports, and

had nothing but hay on board for the comfort of the men; consequently the lemonade, wine, crackers, &c., together with the personal ministrations of our men, were peculiarly serviceable. On most of these boats there were also members of the Christian Commission and of the various relief associations returning from Fredericksburg. They all took hold of the work at hand with cordial good will.

With large stores at Port Royal and more on the way, we wait to-morrow's work. What has been done during the past few days by the relief agents who move with the moving army, I cannot say, as no report has been received from them. They started with wagons well supplied."

When it is understood that the statements made above merely relate to the work of the Sanitary Commission in behalf of the wounded and sick of the Army of the Potomac this month, and that large supplies of sanitary stores have, during the same time, been forwarded to the Army of the Cumberland, Fortress Monroe, and other divisions of our army, the question asked by so many that have not seen *Bulletins* from the Sanitary Commission, What is the Sanitary Commission doing with their abundant stores at this crisis? is fully answered.

But for the length of this communication, we should take pleasure in enumerating details of the system of the United States Sanitary Commission, the keeping full daily records of all the sick and wounded of our armies received into Hospital at Washington or elsewhere, the time of their reception, date of their discharge, &c., so that by giving the name of any soldier, his regiment and company, full information can at once be obtained, and many an anxious inquiry answered.

We were also much interested in the Lodges and Homes of the Commission, where soldiers, disabled and discharged, or absent on furlough, are accommodated with meals, lodging, &c., while detained to perfect their papers, collect dues from the Government, &c. All back pay and pensions are collected by the Commission, and papers home furnished to the soldier without any charge. The extent of the labors of the Commission in this direction, may be estimated from the fact that the Commission have had, the last year, in all their lodges, at different stations, an average of two thousand soldiers on their hands every night.

We cannot close this report without expressing our gratification at learning of the cordial co-operation between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The delegates of the Christian Commission from Brooklyn assure us that all their requisitions for sanitary stores were most readily responded to.

The united testimony of the surgeons, agents, and delegates, of both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, can leave no doubt that the timely sanitary stores so freely furnished on the front at Fredericksburg, Belle Plain, &c., have saved to their country and friends thousands of lives.

DWIGHT JOHNSON, Brooklyn.

JOSIAH O. LOW, Brooklyn.

GEORGE S. STEPHENSON, Brooklyn.

JOHN J. CRANE, New York.

THE POPE AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.—A DONATION OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

From the following correspondence it will be seen that a liberal contribution has been received by the General Aid Society in Buffalo from the Pope:

BUFFALO, May 17, 1864.

MADAM.—The Sovereign Pontiff Pope Pius IX., has, through his Eminence, Cardinal Barnabo, notified me that with the deepest sorrow and with the most fraternal interest he has heard of the number of gallant soldiers wounded in our many battles, and that he desires me to give in his name, and out of his private purse, \$500, as some aid to alleviate their sufferings.

Your truly providentially organized society has done very much to aid our wounded soldiers; hence it seems to me that there can be no better means of accomplishing the kind and paternal wish of his Holiness, than to hand over to you this check for \$500, with my humble and fervent prayers that God's blessing may not only rest on our gallant wounded soldiers, but also on the honored members of your Commission who aid them so generously.

Accept the expressions of respect and esteem with which

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient humble servant,

† JOHN,

Bishop of Buffalo.

MRS. HORATIO SEYMOUR,

President of B. U. S. Sanitary Commission.

GENERAL AID SOCIETY FOR THE ARMY,
BUFFALO, May 18, 1864.

RT. REV. JOHN TIMON:

DEAR SIR.—It is with no ordinary feelings we acknowledge the receipt at your hands of \$500 from the Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Pius IX., for the relief of our wounded soldiers. Large contributions have been received from foreign countries for this humane object. We are deeply touched by such evidences of interest in our present struggle for national life, and the indorsement of this national channel for our charities, which we believe to be the most direct, humane, and efficient one through which the good will of a Christian people can be conveyed to the wounded patriots in field or hospital. Please present our thanks to his Holiness, and accept, for your part in this munificent act, the grateful acknowledgments of the society. With sentiments of the highest regard,

Yours truly,

MRS. HORATIO SEYMOUR,

President.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARMY.

[The following lines are from the pen of the Author of "A Rainy Day in Camp," as also of those exquisite verses on the "Death of a Massachusetts Sergeant," which we published a few weeks ago. Many of our readers are doubtless already familiar with this "Message from the Army," but it derives a fresh and touching interest from the fact that the gifted writer is no more. There can be no harm now in according her the honor, which, while living, she always shrank from claiming, by saying that it is to the late Mrs. Robert S. Howland that we are indebted for it. She was one of the most earnest, enthusiastic and accomplished laborers for the Metropolitan Fair, and we almost fear, we may add, one of its victims. Her interest in the war, and in the welfare of the army, was intense, but most of the many good deeds in which it was manifested, were done so quickly and unobtrusively, as almost to make them secret.]

Oh, FRIENDS! our soldier-hearts cry out
From all the far-off camps;
From lonely watch-towers in the West,
From Southern woods and swamps.

Wherever in their windy tents
Brave boys are gathering,
There, sun-browned faces smile, and bless
Your Christ-like ministering.

Blow! blow, March winds! from mountain forts,
From gulf and river banks;
And carry to those Northern homes
Our thousand, thousand thanks!

And we who lie in narrow beds
All over the sad land—
From stricken rows, in dreary wards
We stretch a pallid hand,

And grasp the palm whose clasp we know—
The generous, tender palm!
Whose every touch on heart and head
Is spice, and oil, and balm!

And we whose beds are narrower yet,
Beneath the sun and rain;
Who never more may carry arms
Though spring has come again.

We too would tell how loving hands
Shut down our dying eyes,
And send a blessing from the dead
On all your sacrifice!

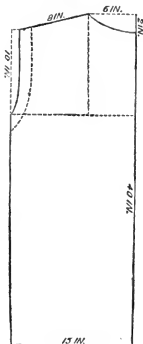
Oh earnest hearts! oh generous hands!
What better thanks can be
Than His, who said—"When I was sick
Ye came to visit Me!"

Work on! Pray on!—No heart may faint,
No hand shall work in vain,
Soon Pain shall conquer us a Peace
And Peace shall heal our Pain.

March, 1864.

HOSPITAL COTTON SHIRT.

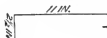
HALF OF FRONT.



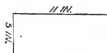
HALF OF SLEEVE.



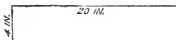
SHOULDER PIECE.



WRISTBAND.



COLLAR.

*Required for each Shirt.*

5 white bone buttons, (3 for front, 2 for sleeves.)

4 tape stays, 1 inch long. (for flaps and opening of sleeves.)

2 skeins thread.

The back of the shirt is cut by the same pattern as the front, though not sloped quite so much on the neck.

The opening in front is 15 inches long, faced on one side with cotton 2 inches wide, and hemmed on the other. The shirt is gathered into the collar both in front and behind.

The shoulder-pieces are faced under the shoulder seams, and cut down one inch at one end, as per diagram, to fit under the collar.

The arm sizes are strengthened with binders 2 inches wide, cut circular, as per dotted line in diagram. The sleeve is gathered into the wristband and gathered a little at the top.

Two gussets are added to each sleeve, as per diagram. The flaps are two fingers long.

The above pattern is for cotton one yard wide. After the front, back and sleeves have been cut out, a strip 6 inches wide will be left, out of which can be cut all the small pieces. Cut in this way it will take less than three yards of cotton.

Hospital Cotton Drawers.

Cotton drawers should be cut by the same pattern as flannel drawers, (for which, see BULLETIN, No. 13.) The pattern should be laid on the cloth in the same manner, the smallest part of one leg to the smallest part of the other, leaving a piece on each side for the double waistbands.

The diagrams allow for seams.

N. B.—Owing to blurred type, the dimensions on the lower line of diagram for flannel drawers, in No. 13 of the BULLETIN, are illegible. They should read 18 inches.

WESTERN SCENES, No. 3.

"WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY."

In nothing is this more strikingly exemplified, than in the history of the cause of hospital relief. While indolence, selfishness and disloyalty intrench themselves behind frivolous excuses, to shield them from doing their duty towards our sick and wounded soldiers, the generous, active and patriotic are fertile in inventions to obtain means for their relief, and glory in labors and sacrifices that carry plenty and comfort to the hospitals.

Some two or three months ago, a poor girl, a seamstress, came to the rooms of the Chicago Sanitary Commission. "I do not feel right," she said, "that I am doing nothing for our soldiers in the hospitals, and have resolved to do something immediately. Which do you prefer—that I should give money, or buy material and manufacture it into garments?"

"You must be guided by your circumstances," was the answer made her; "we need both money and supplies, and you must do that which is most convenient for you."

"I prefer to give you money, if it will do as much good."

"Very well; then give money, which we need badly, and without which we cannot do what is most necessary for our brave sick men."

"Then I will give you the entire earnings of the next two weeks. I'd give more, but I have to help support my mother, who is an invalid. Generally, I make but one vest a day, but I will work earlier and later these next two weeks."

In two weeks she came again, the poor sewing girl, her face radiant with the consciousness of philanthropic intent. Opening her port-monnaie, she counted out—how much do you think, readers of the *New Covenant*?—*nineteen dollars and thirty-seven cents!* Every penny was earned by the slow needle, and she had stitched away into the hours of midnight, on every one of the working days of the week. We call that an instance of patriotism married to generosity.

Some farmers' wives in the north of Wisconsin, eighteen miles from a railroad, had given to the Commission of their bed and table linen, their husbands' shirts and drawers, their scanty supply of dried and canned fruits, till they had exhausted their ability to do more in this direction. Still they were not satisfied. So they cast about to see what could be done in another way. They were all the wives of small farmers, lately moved to the West, living all in log cabins, where one room sufficed for kitchen, parlor, laundry, nursery and bed-room, doing their own house-work, sewing, baby-

teending, dairy-work and all. What *could* they do?

They were not long in devising a way to gratify the longings of their motherly and patriotic hearts, and instantly set about carrying it into action. They resolved to beg wheat of the neighboring farmers, and convert it into money. Sometimes on foot, and sometimes with a team, amid the snows and mud of early spring, they cauvassed the country for twenty and twenty-five miles around, everywhere eloquently pleading the needs of the blue-coated soldier boys in the hospitals, the eloquence everywhere acting as an *open sesame* to the granaries. Now they obtained a little from a rich man, and then a great deal from a poor man—deeds of benevolence are half the time in an inverse ratio to the ability of the benefactors—till they had accumulated nearly five hundred bushels of wheat. This they sent to market, obtained the highest market price for it, and forwarded the proceeds to the Commission. As we held this hard-earned money in our hands, we felt that it was consecrated—that the holy purpose of these noble women had imparted an almost sacredness to it.

A little girl not nine years old, with sweet and timid grace, came into the rooms of the Commission, and laying a five dollar gold piece on our desk, half frightened, told us its history. "My uncle gave me that before the war, and I was going to keep it always; but he's got killed in the army, and mother says now I may give it to the soldiers if I want to—and I'd like to do so. I don't suppose it will buy much for them—will it?"

We led the child to the storeroom, and proceeded to show her how valuable her gift was, by pointing out what it would buy—so many cans of condensed milk, or so many bottles of ale, or ponnds of tea, or codfish, &c. Her face brightened with pleasure. But when we explained to her that her five dollar gold piece was equal to seven dollars and a half in greenbacks, and told her how much comfort we had been enabled to carry into a hospital with as small an amount of stores as that sum would purchase, she fairly danced for joy. "Oh, it will do lots of good, won't it?" And folding her hands earnestly before her, she begged in her charmingly modest way, "Please tell me something that you've seen in the hospitals." A narration of a few touching events, not such as would too severely shock the little creature, but which plainly showed the necessity of continued benevolence to the hospitals, filled her sweet eyes with tears, and drew from her the resolution "to save all her money, and to get all the girls to do so, to buy things for the wounded soldiers." And away she flew, revelling in the luxury of doing good, and

happy in the formation of a good resolution.

A ragged little urchin, who thrusts his unkempt pate daily into the rooms, with the shrill cry of "Matches! matches!" had stood watching the little girl, and listening to the talk. As she disappeared, he fumbled in his ragged pocket, and drew out a small handful of crumbled and soiled postal currency. "Here," said he, "I'll give you so much, for them ere sick fellers in the hospitals," and he put fifty-five cents into our hand, all in five cent currency. We hesitated. "No, my boy, don't give it. You're a noble little fellow, but I'm afraid you can't afford to give so much. You keep it, and I'll give the fifty-five cents, or somebody else will."

"Oh, no," he replied, "you keep it. P'raps I ain't so poor as yer think. My father, he saws wood, and my mother, she takes in washin', and I sells matches—and p'raps we've got more money than yer think. Keep it!" And he turned his dirty, but earnest face up to us with a most beseeching look. "Keep it—do!"

We took the crumbled currency—we forgot the dirty face and the tattered cap—we forgot that we called the little scamp a "nuisance" every day for months, when he had made us fairly jump from our seat with his shrill, unexpected cry of "Matches! matches!" and made a dive at him, to kiss him. But he was too quick for us, and darted out of the room, as if he had been shot. Ever since, when he meets us, he gives us a wide berth, and walks off the sidewalk into the gutter, eyeing us with a suspicious, sidelong glance, as though he suspected we still meditated kissing intentions towards him. If we speak to him, he looks at us shyly, and offers no reply—but if we pass him without speaking, he challenges us with a hearty "halloo, you!" that brings us to a halt instantly.

Had we space, we might continue similar narrations through half a dozen columns. All who will, can do *something* for our poor boys in hospitals. If it be little, "mony a mickle makes a mickle"—and if it be much, it will cause the blessing of many ready to perish to come on the donor. But all can do *SOMETHING*. "Where there's a will, there's a way."—*From the New Covenant.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

CLEANLINESS OF ROOMS AND WALLS.

It cannot be necessary to tell a nurse that she should be clean, or that she should keep her patient clean, seeing that the greater part of nursing consists in preserving cleanliness. No ventilation can freshen a room or ward where the most scrupulous cleanliness is not observed. Unless the wind be blowing through the windows at the rate of twenty miles an hour, dusty carpets, dirty wainseots, musty curtains and

furniture, will infallibly produce a close smell. I have lived in a large and expensively furnished London house, where the only constant inmate in two very lofty rooms, with opposite windows, was myself, and yet, owing to the above-mentioned dirty circumstances, no opening of windows could ever keep those rooms free from closeness; but the carpet and curtains having been turned out of the rooms altogether, they became instantly as fresh as could be wished. It is pure nonsense to say that in London a room cannot be kept clean. Many of our hospitals show the exact reverse.

But no particle of dust is ever or can ever be removed or really got rid of by the present system of dusting. Dusting in these days means nothing but flapping the dust from one part of a room on to another with doors and windows closed. What you do it for I cannot think. You had much better leave the dust alone, if you are not going to take it away altogether. For from the time a room begins to be a room up to the time when it ceases to be one, no one atom of dust ever actually leaves its precincts. Tidying a room means nothing now but removing a thing from one place, which it has kept clean for itself, on to another and a dirtier one. Flapping, by way of cleaning, is only admissible in the case of pictures, or any thing made of paper. The only way I know to remove dust, the plague of all lovers of fresh air, is to wipe every thing with a damp cloth. And all furniture ought to be so made as that it may be wiped with a damp cloth without injury to itself, and so polished as that it may be damped without injury to others. To dust, as it is now practised, truly means to distribute dust more equally over a room.

As to floors, the only really clean floor I know is the Berlin *backered* floor, which is wet rubbed and dry rubbed every morning to remove the dust. The French *parquet* is always more or less dusty, although infinitely superior, in point of cleanliness and healthiness, to our absorbent floor.

For a sick room, a carpet is perhaps the worst expedient which could by any possibility have been invented. If you must have a carpet, the only safety is to take it up two or three times a year, instead of once. A dirty carpet literally infects the room. And if you consider the enormous quantity of organic matter from the feet of people coming in, which must saturate it, this is by no means surprising.

As for walls, the worst is the papered wall; the next worst is plaster. But the plaster can be redeemed by frequent lime washing; the paper requires frequent renewing. A glazed paper gets rid of a good deal of the danger. But the ordinary bed-room paper is all that it ought not to be.

The close connection between ventilation and cleanliness is shown in this. An ordinary light paper will last clean much longer if there is an Arnott's ventilator in the chimney than it otherwise would.

The best wall now extant is oil paint. From this you can wash the animal exuvæ.

These are what make a room musty.

The best wall for a sick room or ward that could be made is pure white non-absorbent cement or glass, or glazed tiles, if they were made slightly enough.

Air can be soiled just like water. If you blow

into water you will soil it with the animal matter from your breath. So it is with air. Air is always soiled in a room where walls and carpets are saturated with animal exhalations.

Want of cleanliness, then, in rooms and wards, which you have to guard against, may arise in three ways:

1. Dirty air coming in from without, soiled by sewer emanations, the evaporation from dirty streets, smoke, bits of unburnt fuel, bits of straw, bits of horse dung.

If people would but cover the outside walls of their houses with plain or encaustic tiles what an incalculable improvement would there be in light, cleanliness, dryness, warmth, and consequently economy. The play of a fire engine would then effectually wash the outside of a house. This kind of *walling* would stand next to paving in improving the health of towns.

2. Dirty air coming from within, from dust, which you often displace, but never remove. And this recalls what ought to be a *sine qua non*. Have as few ledges in your room or ward as possible. And under no pretence have any ledge whatever out of sight. Dust accumulates there, and will never be wiped off. This is a certain way to soil the air. Besides this, the animal exhalations from your inmates saturate your furniture. And if you never clean your furniture properly, how can your rooms or wards be anything but musty? Ventilate as you please, the rooms will never be sweet. Besides this, there is a constant *degradation*, as it is called, taking place from everything except polished or glazed articles—e. g., in coloring certain green papers arsenic is used. Now in the very dust even, which is lying about in rooms hung with this kind of green paper, arsenic has been distinctly detected. You see your dust is anything but harmless; yet you will let such dust lie about your ledges for months, your rooms for ever.

Again, the fire fills the room with coal-dust.

3. Dirty air coming from the carpet. Above all, take care of the carpets, that the animal dirt left there by the feet of visitors does not stay there. Floors, unless the grain is filled up and polished, are just as bad. The smell from the floor of a school-room or ward, when any moisture brings out the organic matter by which it is saturated, might alone be enough to warn us of the mischief that is going on.

The outer air, then, can only be kept clean by sanitary improvements, and by consuming the smoke. The expense in soap, which this single improvement would save, is quite incalculable.

The inside air can only be kept clean by excessive care in the ways mentioned above—to rid the walls, carpets, furniture, ledges, &c., of the organic matter and dust—dust consisting greatly of this organic matter—with which they become saturated, and which is what really makes the room musty.

Without cleanliness, you cannot have all the effect of ventilation; without ventilation, you can have no thorough cleanliness.

Very few people, be they of what class they may, have any idea of the exquisite cleanliness required in the sick-room. For much of what I have said applies less to the hospital than to the private sick room. The smoky chimney, the dusty furniture, the utensils emptied but

once a day, often keep the air of the sick room constantly dirty in the best private houses.

The well have a curious habit of forgetting that what is to them but a trifling inconvenience, to be patiently "put up" with, is to the sick room a source of suffering, delaying recovery, if not actually hastening death. The well are scarcely ever more than eight hours, at most, in the same room. Some change they can always make, if only for a few minutes. Even during the supposed eight hours, they can change their posture or their position in the room. But the sick man who never leaves his bed, who cannot change by any movement of his own his air, or his light, or his warmth; who cannot obtain quiet, or get out of the smoke, or the smell, or the dust; he is really poisoned or depressed by what is to you the merest trifle.

"What can't be cured must be endured," is the very worst and most dangerous maxim for a nurse which ever was made. Patience and resignation in her are but other words for carelessness or indifference—contemptible, if in regard to herself; culpable, if in regard to the sick.

PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.

In almost all diseases, the function of the skin is, more or less, disordered; and in many most important diseases nature relieves herself almost entirely by the skin. This is particularly the case with children. But the excretion, which comes from the skin, is left there, unless removed by washing or by the clothes. Every nurse should keep this fact constantly in mind—for, if she allow her sick to remain unwashed, or their clothing to remain on them after being saturated with perspiration or other excretion, she is interfering injuriously with the natural processes of health just as effectually as if she were to give the patient a dose of slow poison by the mouth. Poisoning by the skin is no less certain than poisoning by the mouth—only it is slower in its operation.

The amount of relief and comfort experienced by sick after the skin has been carefully washed and dried, is one of the commonest observations made at a sick bed. But it must not be forgotten that the comfort and relief so obtained are not all. They are, in fact nothing more than a sign that the vital powers have been relieved by removing something that was oppressing them. The nurse, therefore, must never put off attending to the personal cleanliness of her patient under the plea that all that is to be gained is a little relief, which can be quite as well given later.

In all well-regulated hospitals this ought to be, and generally is, attended to. But it is very generally neglected with private sick.

Just as it is necessary to renew the air round a sick person frequently, to carry off morbid effluvia from the lungs and skin, by maintaining free ventilation, so it is necessary to keep the pores of the skin free from all obstructing excretions. The object, both of ventilation and of skin-cleanliness, is pretty much the same—to wit, removing noxious matter from the system as rapidly as possible.

Care should be taken in all these operations of sponging, washing, and cleansing the skin, not to expose too great a surface at once, so as

to check the perspiration, which would renew the evil in another form.

The various ways of washing the sick need not here be specified—the less so as the doctors ought to say which is to be used.

In several forms of diarrhoea, dysentery, &c., where the skin is hard and harsh, the relief afforded by washing with a great deal of soft soap is incalculable. In other cases, sponging with tepid soap and water, then with tepid water and drying with a hot towel will be ordered.

Every nurse ought to be careful to wash her hands very frequently during the day. If her face too, so much the better.

One word as to cleanliness merely as cleanliness.

Compare the dirtiness of the water in which you have washed when it is cold without soap, cold with soap, hot with soap. You will find the first has hardly removed any dirt at all, the second a little more, the third a great deal more. But hold your hand over a cup of hot water for a minute or two, and then, by merely rubbing with the finger, you will bring off flakes of dirt or dirty skin. After a vapor bath you may peel your whole self clean in this way. What I mean is, that by simply washing or sponging with water you do not really clean your skin. Take a rough towel, dip one corner in very hot water—if a little spirit be added to it it will be more effectual—and then rub as if you were rubbing the towel into your skin with your fingers. The black flakes which will come off will convince you that you were not clean before, however much soap and water you have used. These flakes are what require removing. And you can really keep yourself cleaner with a tumbler of hot water and a rough towel and rubbing, than with a whole apparatus of bath and soap and sponge, without rubbing. It is quite nonsense to say that anybody need be dirty. Patients have been kept as clean by these means on a long voyage, when a basin full of water could not be afforded, and when they could not be moved out of their berths, as if all the appurtenances of home had been at hand.

Washing, however, with a large quantity of water has quite other effects than those of mere cleanliness. The skin absorbs the water and becomes softer and more perspirable. To wash with soap and soft water is, therefore, desirable from other points of view than that of cleanliness.

CHATTERING HOPES AND ADVICES.

The sick man to his advisers.

"My advisers! Their name is legion. . . . Somehow or other, it seems a provision of the universal destinies, that every man, woman and child should consider him, her, or itself privileged especially to advise me. Why? That is precisely what I want to know." And this is what I have to say to them. I have been advised to go to every place extant in and out of England—to take every kind of exercise by every kind of cart, carriage—yes, and even swing (!) and dumb-bell (!) in existence; to imbibe every different kind of stimulant that ever has been invented. And this when those best fitted to know, viz., medical men, after long and close attendance, had declared any journey out of the question, had prohibited any kind of motion whatever, had closely laid down the diet and drink. What

would my advisers say, were they the medical attendants, and I the patient left their advice, and took the casual adviser's? But the singularity in Legion's mind is this: it never occurs to him that everybody else is doing the same thing, and that I the patient *must* perform say, in sheer self-defence, like Rosalind, "I could not do with all."

"Chattering Hopes" may seem an odd heading. But I really believe there is scarcely a greater worry which invalids have to endure than the incalculable hopes of their friends. There is no one practice against which I can speak more strongly from actual personal experience, wide and long, of its effects during sickness, observed both upon others and upon myself. I would appeal most seriously to all friends, visitors, and attendants of the sick to leave off this practice of attempting to "cheer" the sick by making light of their danger and by exaggerating their probabilities of recovery.

Far more now than formerly does the medical attendant tell the truth to the sick who are really desirous to hear it about their own state.

How intense is the folly, then, to say the least of it, of the friend, be he even a medical man, who thinks that his opinion, given after a cursory observation, will weigh with the patient, against the opinion of the medical attendant, given, perhaps, after years of observation, after using every help to diagnosis afforded by the stethoscope, the examination of pulse, tongue, &c.; and certainly after much more observation than the friend can possibly have had.

Supposing the patient to be possessed of common sense, how can the "favorable" opinion, if it is to be called an opinion at all, of the casual visitor "cheer" him, when different from that of the experienced attendant? Unquestionably the latter may, and often does, turn out to be wrong. But which is most likely to be wrong?

The fact is, that the patient is not "cheered" at all by these well-meant, most tiresome friends. On the contrary, he is depressed and wearied. If, on the one hand, he exerts himself to tell each successive member of this too numerous conspiracy, whose name is legion, why he does not think as they do—in what respect he is worse—what symptoms exist that they know nothing of—he is fatigued instead of "cheered," and his attention is fixed upon himself. In general, patients who are really ill do not want to talk about themselves. Hypochondriacs do, but again I say we are not on the subject of hypochondriacs.

If, on the other hand, and which is much more frequently the case, the patient says nothing, but the Shakespearean "Oh!" "Ah!" "Go to!" and "In good sooth!" in order to escape from the conversation about himself the sooner, he is depressed by want of sympathy. He feels isolated in the midst of friends. He feels what a convenience it would be, if there were any single person to whom he could speak simply and openly, without pulling the string upon himself of this shower-bath of silly hopes and encouragements; to whom he could express his wishes and directions without that person persisting in saying, "I hope that it will please God yet to give you twenty years," or, "You

have a long life of activity before you." How often we see at the end of biographies, or of cases recorded in medical papers, "after a long illness A. died rather suddenly," or, "unexpectedly both to himself and to others." "Unexpectedly" to others, perhaps, who did not see, because they did not look; but by no means "unexpectedly to himself," as I feel entitled to believe, both from the internal evidence in such stories, and from watching similar cases; there was every reason to expect that A. would die, and he knew it; but he found it useless to insist upon his own knowledge to his friends.

In these remarks I am alluding neither to acute cases which terminate rapidly nor to "nervous" cases.

By the first, much interest in their own danger is very rarely felt. In writings of fiction, whether novels or biographies, these death-beds are generally depicted as almost seraphic in incidence of intelligence. Sadly large has been my experience in death-beds, and I can only say that I have seldom or never seen such. In difference, excepting with regard to bodily suffering, or to some duty the dying man desires to perform, is the far more usual state.

The "nervous case," on the other hand, delights in figuring to himself and others a fictitious danger.

But the long chronic case, who knows too well himself, and who has been told by his physician that he will never enter active life again, who feels that every month he has to give up something he could do the month before—oh! spare such sufferers your chattering hopes. You do not know how you worry and weary them. Such real sufferers cannot bear to talk of themselves, still less to hope for what they cannot at all expect.

So also as to all the advice showered so profusely upon such sick, to leave off some occupation, to try some other doctor, some other house, climate, pill, powder, or specific; I say nothing of the inconsistency—for these advisers are sure to be the same persons who exhorted the sick man not to believe his own doctor's prognostics, because "doctors are always mistaken," but to believe some other doctor, because "this doctor is always right." Sure also are these advisers to be the persons to bring the sick man fresh occupation, while exhorting him to leave his own.

Wonderful is the face with which friends, lay and medical, will come in and worry the patient with recommendations to do something or other, having just as little knowledge as to its being feasible, or even safe for him, as if they were to recommend a man to take exercise, not knowing he had broken his leg. What would the friend say, if he were the medical attendant, and if the patient, because some other friend had come in, because somebody, anybody, nobody, had recommended something, anything, nothing, were to disregard his orders, and take that other body's recommendation? But people never think of this.

To me these commonplaces, leaving their smear upon the cheerful, single-hearted, constant devotion to duty, which is so often seen in the decline of such sufferers, recall the slimy trail left by the snail on the sunny southern garden-wall loaded with fruit—*Miss Nightingale*.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, JULY 1, 1864.

No. 17.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STIMON, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

SHERMAN'S DEPARTMENT.

AFFAIRS AT CHATTANOOGA.

Dr. Read reports to Dr. Newberry, from Chattanooga, June 12:

For a long time events have so crowded upon each other, in this department, and my work has been of such a miscellaneous character, that it has been impossible for me to give you any detailed statement of that part of the work especially under my observation.

A brief allusion to the more prominent occurrences of the past, and to the lessons they seem to teach, would, perhaps, be all you would care to read during the stirring events of the present.

During the spring and summer of 1863, the Commissary's Department and the Commission furnished a large supply of vegetables to the soldiers in the field, and when in midsummer the army advanced from Murfreesboro', the men were in good condition, and though the long march to Chattanooga was a tedious one, over mountain roads, it was through a country where green corn, potatoes, fruits and berries were comparatively abundant.

In getting into Chattanooga, our army met the rebels in overwhelming numbers on the bloody field of Chickamanga, and though they retired from the battle-field, they won, at a terrible loss, a substantial victory, and Chattanooga was firmly held.

But our army there was really besieged; the soldiers there, to a great extent, had lost their clothing, tents, and blankets. The means of transportation were so limited, that the loss could not be supplied. During the cold wet weather that followed after, fences, shade trees, and all spare buildings were consumed. Camp fires were very

rarely kindled, either for warmth or for cooking, on account of the want of wood.

The severely wounded were returned here in crowded hospitals, sparingly provided with the articles of diet, clothing, etc., which such men need, although every available means was employed to get stores through from Stevenson, and the hospitals were much better supplied, than any other part of the army. I was enabled to get through a large supply of condensed milk, an article, in such an emergency, of inestimable value, used freely in tea and coffee, as a dressing for toast and rice, and for making milk punches; it alone I have no doubt, saved hundreds of lives, and this was the testimony of all the surgeons whom I heard speak of it.

In the meantime our brave soldiers have exhibited the highest types of heroism. Inadequately clothed, many without blankets, with leaking tents, or none at all, on half and quarter rations, of the current articles of diet alone; their pitiful allowance of hard tack, frequently wet and mouldy, gathering from the streets the scattering grains of corn "to parch," and thus eke out their scanty allowance; encamped in a sea of mud, exposed to the constant fall rains without fire; their encampments a daily target for the enemy's shells, their confidence in their cause, and in their commander was unshaken, and the determination to endure this and more, as long as it might be necessary, was universal. In riding through the camps complaints and murmurings were unheard, and I doubt not had the vote of the soldiers been taken, in the most untoward circumstances, the decision would have been nearly, or quite unanimous, "to die in Chattanooga, rather than abandon it."

The deliverance for which they waited, came in the series of brilliant battles in November, with such a loss as was of course inevitable; and our hospitals were again crowded with wounded. Communication was opened by river and by railroad, and the stores accumulated at Stevenson, Nashville, etc., were brought forward in abundance.

The hospitals were all supplied with all articles of necessity and luxury, yet the percentage of deaths from hospital was much

greater than after the battle of Chickamauga.

After the battles of Chattanooga, the want of all means of transportation rendered another period of repose inevitable for that part of the army which was confronting the rebel Gen. Johnson, and an effort was made to vary the hard fare of the soldiers by the addition of potatoes, onions, pickles, etc.

Never before in this department were so large amounts of these articles distributed by our Commission; and they were made to reach the entire army. Larger quantities than are ordinarily issued were forwarded by the commissaries; and now when active operations are resumed, and our hospitals are again crowded with wounded, a marked change in the physical condition of the men is apparent. Patients are rapidly recovering from wounds now, who wounded in like manner, in the battles of November, would certainly have died.

THE LESSON OF EXPERIENCE.

The lesson it seems to me, we should learn from this, is one which has often been urged by the Commission, and cannot be repeated too often, "that the time to care for our wounded, is before they are wounded"—the time to care for wounds, is before they are made. This can only be done by a constant and liberal issue of vegetable food to the men in the field, and to be effectually done, and at the least expense, should never be deferred until the appearance of scurvy admonishes us that our work has been neglected.

It seems to me also, that during these periodic seasons of repose, we should accumulate larger supplies of "battle-stores," at the extreme front, or at the nearest place to the front where they will be safe.

The greater part of the stores which are of special necessity, during battles, and immediately after them, such as milk, beef tea, stimulants, shirts, drawers, rags, bandages, compresses, sheets, pillows, pads, arm-slings, etc., will keep an indefinite length of time, and it would be a great relief at all times, to those of us at the front, if we could feel that from the accumulation of these stores here, a rebel raid, the failure of a bridge, a military necessity, requiring all the transportation in the rear

for days or weeks, for troops, equipages, munitions or forage, would not deprive us of the power of aiding the wounded. The interruption of transportation for the past week, by the failure of a bridge, has seriously embarrassed us, by making it impossible to receive stores, which we are exceedingly anxious to ship to the front, where they are greatly needed, and which we could readily push forward at any time from this point.

THE DEAD AT CHICKAMAUGA.

After the extraordinary demand upon our stores and time, incident to the battles of November, had somewhat diminished, an inquiry was received with regard to an officer of a Missouri Regiment, who was supposed to have fallen on the battle-field of Chickamauga, accompanied by an urgent request from his father, a resident of New Jersey, that his fate be ascertained, and his body recovered, if possible. The task at first seemed a hopeless one, but after a little time such information was obtained as rendered success probable, and an expedition was started for the battle-field under command of Capt. Barber, of the Ohio Sharpshooters, and an escort of his men. The Captain was also instructed by Gen. Thomas to bury any of our dead who might be found on the field, and make report on his return to the headquarters of the department. The expedition was successful, the body sought for found, and clearly identified, and is now deposited in the National Cemetery here.

But so many of our dead were found entirely unburied, and the work of previous burial parties so imperfectly done, (the rains having washed away the scanty coverings of earth, so that hands, feet, and skulls protruded from almost every grave,) that the Captain concluded not to attempt to finish the work, and returned on the second day, and made report of the condition of the field. This report induced the General Commanding to issue his order to Capt. Barber, to take the greater part of his command, proceed to the battle-field, encamp there, and continue his work until all the dead were buried. What I had seen on the previous expedition induced me to accompany this, to work with the Captain, and as far as possible identify the remains of the fallen, mark their resting places, and

save for the friends all personal mementoes that could be gathered up. During the fifteen days spent upon the field, between 800 and 900 of our dead were buried; some had never been buried, and part had been imperfectly buried by our own men after the battles of November. The only instance indicating that the rebels had buried any of our dead, was, where the men were found buried in one grave, *all shot in the head*, a strap buckled around the arm of one and the legs of another tied together with a strap. It was evident they had been shot after they were captured.

The whole battle-field was carefully patrolled by Capt. Barber's men, a grave dug for each soldier, his remains carefully deposited and covered, and when by a careful examination of clothing, contents of pockets, or in any other way the identity of the body could be ascertained, the grave was marked with his name.

The inscription on the head-boards and the location of the graves of all who were buried by our men during the battle, or from the rebel hospitals, were also carefully noted, and the bodies of many have been thus recovered and forwarded to their friends through this office.

One instance will illustrate the nature of this work: Two miles south of Crawfish Springs we found the body of a man whose clothing indicated that he was a Union officer, a Lieutenant or Captain, as indicated by his coat; an artillery or cavalry officer, as indicated by his pants. Near him was found a private soldier, with a sutler's check of the 4th Ohio Cavalry in his pocket. A large number of the officer's teeth had been filled with gold. As these were loose in the jaws, only the skeleton and clothing remaining, they were taken, with a description of the light color of hair and every particular which could identify the remains. Upon our return to Chattanooga, I ascertained that Chaplain Van Horne had received a letter of inquiry from the mother of Lient. —, 4th Ohio Cavalry, who was supposed to have fallen in the neighborhood where this body was found. A minute description was returned, and in response a friend of the deceased comes down from — and clearly identifies the remains, and takes them to the mother.

Others were also identified, and many preserved mementoes gathered up which were sent to the Cleveland Fair, to be delivered to friends, if found.

During the first occupation of this place there was no general system of burials, and the dead were deposited in scattered groups, graves imperfectly marked, or not marked at all, and no general register kept any where. All this is now changed. A most desirable location has been selected for a National Cemetery, which has been placed in charge of Chaplain Van Horne, specially detailed by Gen. Thomas for that duty; the grounds are being regularly and beautifully laid out, with streets and avenues, the whole surrounded by a substantial stone wall, now nearly completed, the summit of the hill to be crowned by a suitable monument, and the whole of the grounds to be filled with ornamental trees and shrubs, at the proper season. A complete register of all burials is now kept, and every possible precaution taken to secure absolute accuracy.

The frequent loss of hospital records after the battle of Chickamauga, and the fact that there were many Division Hospitals at the post which did not report to the Medical Director, induced us to keep at our office a register of all hospital cases here, and adding to it so far as we could a record of all deaths in regimental hospitals and of the killed in action. This has been of so much service to us in answering special inquiries from the Hospital Directory, and from friends at home, that we have felt compelled to continue it, and keep at the office a full register of all patients at this post. We add to it also the location of all graves, as far as we can, from the regular reports, and from copies of the inscriptions of all head-boards of scattered graves.

MAIL MATTERS.

The detention of letters and papers in the post office here directed to soldiers and commanding officers of companies has been a great evil, and cannot be avoided, unless all will learn to *prepay fully* all mail matter sent to soldiers in the field, or unless some one will pay the daily postage on the packages underpaid. The letters to soldiers are usually from friends at home, and the failure to receive them frequently pre-

vents the soldier from writing home. The packages to officers of companies very often contain descriptive rolls and discharge papers, and great loss and annoyance must frequently occur from their detention. Under your instructions I have already paid the postage on 6,130 letters and packages, which would otherwise have been detained, the postage amounting to \$418.41, and have to-day also directed the postmaster to pay the postage on newspaper packages sent from the office of publication, which could not otherwise be forwarded. As it will require a large amount to keep up these payments, I trust you will call attention to the importance of having all mail matter to soldiers in the field, including newspapers and magazines from the offices of publication *fully* prepaid. This, also, should be borne in mind, that double rates are charged on all deficits, and that no postmaster has any discretion allowed him. He must collect it or lose it, or have the package on which it is charged in his office.

We have forwarded as requested from time to time, to various points in the North, the bodies of officers and soldiers who have been killed in action or who have died in hospitals, and I believe in every instance the remains have reached the proper destination in safety. You will see, however, from a General Order, which I send you, marked "A," that this part of our work must be suspended until after the 31st day of October next.

THE GARDENS.

Under some discouragements, and as the result of much labor, the hospital gardens of the Commission are proving eminently a success. The ground has not been accurately measured, but it is estimated between 150 and 200 acres, in addition to about 40 acres of vineyards of Catawba vines, which are now in good condition, and fruiting well. The general and special orders, of which the copies enclosed are marked B, C, D & E, will show how fully we have been aided and sustained in this part of our work by Major-General Thomas, commanding the Department, and by Major General Steadman, commanding the post. An additional order was published in the paper here, which effectually prevents all trespassing.

We have one company of the 31st Indiana permanently detailed as a guard. Have about 30 men as a permanent detail for workmen and to gather the vegetables, and a daily detail from a colored regiment, of from 50 to 75 men. We have had made at the Government shop 1 roller, 1 hand and 1 horse "marker," 4 harrows, some 300 feet of hot-bed frames, and various other articles. Have received many tools from the country, and have a full supply of horses, harness, and all tools except hoes, of which we need two or three dozen more.

We have issued thus far only mustard, lettuce, radishes, peas and onions, and are now distributing of these to all soldiers in and out of hospitals at this post, and have shipped twice to the hospitals at Resaca.

The total issues to date have been 2,319 bushels. While entering up the issues for the day, last evening, an orderly from Department Headquarters brought in the note of which the copy is enclosed, marked "F." It is evident now, unless some unexpected accident happens, that the garden will furnish a continuous and full supply of vegetables for all the sick and wounded at the post, through the summer and early fall months, with a constant surplus for convalescent camps and men in the field. I send you enclosed a statement of the issues of this post, and of the shipments to the front, of the most important articles for the month of May. The aggregate of some of the articles are very large, but never before has there been such a large and long-continued demand for these articles, a demand which will continue and probably increase for many days to come.

Of the more recent work at the front, those who are on the field have or will give you full reports. As soon as it was evident that an immediate advance of the army was contemplated, a depot of stores was opened at Ringgold, forces called in from Nashville, Knoxville and Huntsville, all gathering at the point.

The details of the work there they will narrate. I will only add, that it is certain our stores have been of inestimable value. They have been pushed on from point to point, as the railroad has been opened, going on by the first train, and at every

battle have been taken by teams from the terminal depot to the field and distributed to the wounded, frequently under fire, and always as fast as they were gathered into the Field Hospitals.

The steady advance of the army has prevented gathering complete lists of casualties; but the name, rank, company, regiment, and nature of wound of all who have been admitted into the temporary field hospitals, have been forwarded to you, with copies of the inscriptions of all head boards on the battle-field this side of Kingston, the lists of the deaths in hospitals at the front, etc.

All statistics are forwarded to the office of the Hospital Directory as fast as received, and every effort is made to bring up the reports of the changes in the hospitals here, which are now long in arrears. I have assurance that this difficulty will be immediately remedied.

My co-laborers here are Mr. Bartlett, Store-keeper, assisted by Mr. Rindle, Transportation Agent, Prof. H. B. Hosford, Hospital Visitor, Mr. Miney, and Mr. Houghton, who have charge of special inquiries and the reports for the Hospital Directory, and Mr. Thomas Wills, Gardener, all eminently fitted for the duties assigned them, and all laboring beyond their strength in the discharge of their duties. Mr. Werth is also here, and did good service as Transportation Agent, until sickness rendered him incapable of discharging the duties of his office. He is assisting in the store-room, but will leave soon for his home.

Our main want is now, a constant and large supply of all battle stores. We have sent everything to the front, and our agents and the Medical Director are calling for more. We expect six car-loads this P. M. from Nashville, and shall send at least four of them immediately to the front.

The ice you sent came in excellent condition, and I hope more will be forwarded. Of all we have, we need a larger supply than we have received for a long time, and of our cooking utensils, cups, plates, coffee boilers, camp-kettles, a large number are required. But you know fully our wants from the telegrams and letters already forwarded, and a repetition of them is unnecessary.

AT THE FRONT.

Mr. Read writes:

HOSPITAL FIRST DIVISION, 4TH A. C.,
NEAR DALLAS, JUNE 1st, 1864.

Here we are and here we have been for eight days. Constant firing on our front and to the right and left of us. The enemy reached this place one day in advance of us, put up their works, and so far have stopped our progress. There are not unfrequent assaults on both sides, and each side has so far been repulsed. We are moving our line farther to the left and nearer to the railroad, while McPherson, who is on our extreme right, can neither advance nor get away; neither can the enemy drive him away.

I think we have had not less than — wounded since we left Resaca. We have had no rain for a week, and the weather is very hot; thermometer 95° in the shade to-day.

Yesterday we received three loads of stores from Kingston. Pocock going after them, but he was compelled to leave them some nine miles back. The wagons had to take in ammunition, so that he came here leaving the stores under guard. I obtained other wagons of the Medical Purveyor.

The hospitals of the 15th and 16th Corps have been moved with their wounded eight miles to the left of where they were first established. This, of course, is hard and injurious for the bad cases. The light cases have been sent back to Kingston, and, in some cases, the very bad ones, but this was done but by order of Dr. Kitto. * *

By being on the field as we are, we can secure all needed transportation. * *

Dr. Hazen is in the sick train this side of Chattanooga; Fairchild with the 14th Corps; Brundisitt with the 20th; Hoblit with the 4th and 23d; and I go from one to the other, doing what I can. The lists of casualties have all been forwarded, and goods have been brought forward promptly. —

CHATTANOOGA, JUNE 4, 1864.

We have sent two car-loads of stores to Kingston to-day, and have but little left here. Thirty-six boxes containing shirts, drawers, rags and bandages, are on the way from Knoxville. I have purchased and had made \$200 worth of cooking utensils, cups,

coffee pots, pails, wash basins, &c., &c. and sent them to Kingston, where the wounded come in by thousands, and where, without this provision, little food could be prepared or served. Mr. Enos and Mrs. Dickinson have gone down to-day. I have asked Mr. Tone to take all available help and cooking utensils from Resaca to that point, turning over all needed stores to the General Hospital remaining there, and engaging some one connected with it to answer promptly all special inquiries and furnish us reports.

We need hospital and battle stores of all kinds. The call upon us has been larger than ever before in this department, and we have more nearly than ever before supplied the demand. The daily demand will not diminish, but rather increase for weeks. Do not let us lack supplies. The comfort of all and the lives of many will depend on the supplies you send us. When one man or a thousand actually needs our stores to-day, we cannot keep them for the thousands who will need them more to-morrow. We look for new shipments for them.

The continued rains interfere somewhat with gardening operations and the gathering of vegetables; but all the time the weather permits, from twelve to twenty men are gathering fresh vegetables, which are taken by our own men to the various hospitals, in quantities to reach all who carefully use them. And nothing we furnish is more gratefully received or more beneficial. Two double wagons are employed for this work, and are rarely diverted to any other duty.

We send you lists of deaths to date in Resaca hospitals, and additional lists of those killed in action near Resaca, gathered with much labor, by Mr. Tone, from the inscriptions on the headboards of the scattered graves. * * * *

THE HOSPITALS AT CHATTANOOGA.

The Rev. H. B. Hosford reports, June 12:

I can hardly call what I intended to write, a report, as I know of nothing which I have done, or failed to do, while connected with the Commission, which seems to me to be in any special manner, worthy of record.

I chose, therefore, to write of the hospitals of Chattanooga themselves, rather than anything which I have done or attempted to do in connection with them.

The recent movements of the army and the battles consequent thereupon, have wrought great changes in the hospitals at this point. The General Hospital has been enlarged by means of tents, near the hospital buildings erected, and left for our use by Gen. Bragg, upon the crest of a hill, a few rods west of the railroad depot, and also by the establishment of General Hospital, Division No. 8, located upon a high bank of the Tennessee river, about three-fourths of a mile north of the city. The number of patients in General Hospital this morning was —.

A new hospital was also established upon Lookout Mountain, in which there are at the present time — patients. The Officer's Hospital has been removed from its former location in Chattanooga to Lookout Mountain, and has — patients. The Field Hospital near the base of Lookout Mountain has been much enlarged, and otherwise improved in accommodations, but not increased to any considerable extent in numbers, in consequence of the constant and large transfers made to Northern Hospitals. It numbers —.

A new Field Hospital pertaining to the Army of the Tennessee, has been established and located about three-quarters of a mile east of General Field Hospital. There are also several convalescent camps, and hospitals connected with certain brigades, or detachments from brigades on duty at this post.

The daily changes made in transfers at all of these hospitals have been great, for a week or two past, in consequence of almost constant arrivals and departures of trains of sick and wounded from the boat, or to the hospitals at the North, especially at Nashville. All, with few exceptions, who are able to bear with safety the journey, are transferred, leaving the room and cots which they occupied, for those who should the same day arrive from the field. Many of the latter remain here but for a day. Others are sent immediately to the convalescent camps, from which some of them, are soon returned to duty.

The whole number now in hospital here and in the convalescent camps, is not far from —, of which a very large proportion are very slightly wounded, or lightly affected by disease. Most, however, are in one way or another unfit for duty in the field, while many, very many, are lying upon their low cots dreadfully mangled and maimed, or wasting under the power of dangerous or fatal disease; most of them manfully bearing their sufferings, as for their country's sake, or manifesting day by day, by their patient fortitude, as much true heroism as it is possible for any man to manifest in the fore-front of the battle. Their cheerful hope and uncomplaining fortitude, as well as the intense earnestness with which they inquire for any news from the front which may indicate the progress of our arms, or launch forth their hearty invectives upon the enemies of our country, whether rebels in the field or sympathizers with them at home, show that the soldiers of the Northern Army are no mercenary horde, but are worthy of the proud position which they hold, not only as soldiers of the American Army, but as American citizens. After every battle they inquire eagerly what part their own corps has taken in it, if any; who of their own regiment, company or comrades have been particularly heard from since. They talk with subdued voice of the number of wounded; they say little of the number killed, but the lines of their countenances show that they are not forgetful

"Of the brave hearts that never more shall beat,
The eyes that smile no more, the unreturning feet."

The location of the hospitals at Chattanooga could not in the main be better. Most of them are upon high ground, fanned by the breezes from the mountains, and commanding views of scenery, which both by their intrinsic beauty and by their patriotic associations can but be health-inspiring to those who are able to look upon them from their narrow cots, or through the open door, or as with feeble and aided steps they take their seats upon the outside, and gaze, as they often do for hours in some cases, upon one of the most beautiful and otherwise interesting pictures ever spread out to the view of man.

From almost every point of the hill where

stands the General Hospital, and the same is true to a considerable extent of the other locations, there looms up in close proximity upon the south the bold and rocky front of Lookout Mountain, presenting to the immediate view below the palisades the slopes over which Hooker's brave soldiers charged upon the enemy and drove them from their entrenchments. Immediately in the rear of the General Hospital, and distant but a few hundred yards, flows the Tennessee, and doubling back upon itself, at the north end of Lookout Mountain, and presenting, as in a picture, the whole scene of that wonderfully successful midnight descent of the pontoon boats, with 1,250 picked men, directly under the rebel batteries, to the place where the boats were anchored, and our hosts went over to battle and to victory. All along in front stretches the ever-to-be-remembered Mission or Missionary Ridge, presenting to the looker-on the scene of that noble daring by which the rebels were finally driven from the strongholds of Chattanooga. The thoughts gliding at will over the ridge in a southeasterly direction from the hospital, dwell upon that plain of terrible interest to many a soldier, the field of Chickamauga.

Immediately in front of the Hospital, and near the base of Mission Ridge, too remote to suggest by any object which can be seen, unpleasant or saddening associations, and yet capable of being easily seen in its graceful outlines, and contemplated by those who may find a solemn pleasure in doing so, stands the National Cemetery, where thousands upon thousands are to lie in glorious dust. When ornamented by all that American genius or patriotism can furnish, through all coming time

"The heavens their dew shall shed
On the patriot martyr's bed,
And the rocks shall raise their head
His deeds to tell."

The hospitals of Chattanooga are almost without exception under the control and direction of able surgeons, who have a true and hearty interest in the welfare of those who come under their charge. Especially is this the case with the General Hospital. No one can pass through its wards from day to day, beholding everywhere order, cleanliness and quiet, and

hearing from the lips of sick and wounded men lying there frequent and heartfelt expressions of gratitude for the kind attention bestowed upon them, needs any other testimony to the skill and fidelity of the surgeon in charge, and of those whom he has associated with him. The supplies by the Government, supplemented daily in no small degree by the contributions of the Northern Aid Societies, are ample for all that medicine, food and clothing can do for the comfort and recovery of the sick and wounded soldier. The distribution of reading matter, both religious and secular, in the hospitals is quite liberal, but probably might be largely increased with advantage among the convalescents.

A better system, or rather some system of securing good nurses and cooks, and possibly some other attendants for the hospitals, other than that of depending upon detailed soldiers, seems to me to be the most important thing wanting to make the hospitals at this point as nearly perfect as they can be. In regard to these there exists in almost all cases one or the other of two unhappy liabilities. Either the person detailed belongs to the great class of shirks, and is therefore morally unfit for the position, or he may be ordered to duty in the field at a time when his services are most valuable and needed in hospital. It has seemed to me worthy of consideration whether the expense of maintaining a small herd of cows, in connection with each hospital in a place like this, would not be abundantly and over and over again returned, in the healing and comfort which fresh milk would afford to the sick and wounded. There is, moreover, material enough daily wasted from hospitals—pieces of bread, vegetables, &c.—to furnish no inconsiderable portion of the keeping of cows.

The hospitals are now receiving in quite large instalments dividends from the gardens. Fresh salad, peas, radishes, mustard and onions, are daily gathered and distributed among the hospitals, at present averaging about 400 bushels per day, much to the comfort and health of the men. In conclusion, I would say of my observation of the working of the Sanitary Commission at this point during the last four months, has been on the whole to my own mind

satisfactory and gratifying. I know that great pains and indefatigable labor are bestowed by the agents here to secure to the fullest extent possible the proper care and distribution of the stores committed to their trust by the benevolent and patriotic friends of the soldier at home.

Whatever may in truth be said of waste and loss and misconduct of incompetent and dishonest men, occasionally in the employ of the Commission, pertains alike, though in many cases to a far greater degree, to all the operations of business connected with the army. The waste and loss which occur are in a great measure absolutely unavoidable, and compared with the good accomplished, not as much as the light dust of the balance.

Let carping pharisees cry, "Why was all this waste made?" It is enough for the friends of the Commission to know that they have wrought a good work, and that wherever the gospel of benevolence, patriotism and humanity shall be spread throughout the whole world, this which they have done shall be spoken of as a memorial of them.

VEGETABLES.

Mr. Seymour says, June 14:

Since my last report I have spent most of my time at the front, with the army advancing on Atlanta, until I was compelled to abandon the field on account of a severe attack of dysentery, from which I am now recovering. Before I left Knoxville, and since, we issued vegetables quite liberally, not only to men in hospitals, but to those in the field. On the moving of the Army from the Department of the Ohio to the Cumberland, under Gen. Sherman, we had just received from you a liberal supply of potatoes and kraut, and I succeeded in issuing the latter to the men before the army left. I was requested by Gen. Schofield not to issue the potatoes, as the men would be on the move the next day, and would not have means of transportation. Generals Cox and Judah were very anxious that their men should have them, as they were suffering for want of vegetable diet. They stated that at a certain day they should reach Charleston, about one hundred miles in advance, and hoped I should be able to reach them there with the potatoes, when they would rest a day or two. At the proper time I succeeded in procuring from Gen. Schofield an order for cars to transport to Charleston one hundred barrels of potatoes. I dispatched Mr. Crary in charge of them; he succeeded in reaching Charleston just as the army ar-

rived, and, I assure you, he and the potatoes met with a hearty reception.

The troops remaining at Knoxville, London and Strawberry Plains, as also those in hospital, have been well supplied with vegetables, and the hospitals with fruit and other delicacies.

The garden of from seventy-five to a hundred acres, is progressing finely under the supervision of Mr. Culbertson. I left Mr. J. H. Milliken, a faithful and judicious man, assisted by two detailed men, in charge of the store at Knoxville. Mr. Crary is, for the present, at the front, rendering good assistance in that great field of labor in the Georgia campaign.

I proceeded to the front and remained with the army, rendering such assistance as was in my power, until after the battle of Resaca, when I was severely attacked with dysentery. After controlling the disease for three days, I was reluctantly compelled to abandon the field. I returned to Nashville, when I was confined for more than a week to my room, receiving from the members of the Commission there the most cordial sympathy and attention. I am happy to state that my health is now rapidly improving.

I have deemed it not within my province to enter into details of the working of the Commission at the front, it being in the department of Dr. Read, from whom you will undoubtedly have full particulars. Suffice it to say, that no intelligent and candid observer can say otherwise than that the Sanitary Commission has been to that army everything, that a reasonable person could expect. There undoubtedly have been individual cases which the Commission has not reached. But that the great mass of our noble sick and wounded men have received bountifully of the munificent gift of our generous people, no one can in justice deny.

THE MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. Way writes from Vicksburg May 30:

Since the Red River expedition returned we have issued vegetables to the whole command, at the rate of one barrel to sixty men, which took all we had on hand. Since then we have received 250 bbls. and 75 sacks of potatoes, 50 bbls. of pickles, mostly pickled potatoes, and 25 kegs of assorted pickles.

I have just received a request from Surgeon Lacey, Surgeon-in-Chief at Natchez, for Sanitary Stores. I immediately turned over to the Quartermaster ten sacks of potatoes, which held about a barrel each, and fifteen barrels of pickles, consigning them to the surgeon-in-chief.

Yesterday's mail brought me a notification from Mr. Shipman of the shipment of 200 bbls. and 500 sacks of potatoes, 50 bbls. and 20 kegs of pickles, 6 bbls. of eggs, 2

boxes of sheets, 2 boxes of butter, 7 boxes of dried fruit, 7 boxes of horseradish, and 1 keg of butter. All will come in good time.

I have issued freely of all the stores we had to the Red River expedition, as I thought the men were very needy. I now have vegetables enough to make another issue to the troops here, and expect to do so, for they will keep but a short time, it is so very warm. We are having much warmer weather than at this time last year.

Summary of Shipment of Supplies from Chicago made June 10, 1864, to Gen. Sherman's Army.

4,580 lbs. bandages and com-	760 doz. eggs.
presses.	1,547 lbs. butter.
8 bed sacks.	5 galls. horse radish.
13 body wrappers.	214 lbs. green tea.
79 comforts.	40 lbs. dried beef.
422 prs. drawers.	10,000 lbs. codfish.
67 dressing gowns.	944 lbs. crushed sugar.
1155 handk'fs and towels.	1,507 lbs. best brown sugar.
463 pads.	50 lbs. cheese.
299 pillows.	40 lbs. herbs.
495 pillow cases.	80 lbs. candies.
233 shirts.	15 lbs. soap.
1,000 shirts.	24 bots. spirits camphor.
62 pairs slippers.	181 " domestic wine.
151 " socks.	24 " bay rum.
1 package pin cushions.	120 " raspberry vinegar.
1,043 lbs. barley.	20 hbls. ale.
45 lbs. corn meal.	50 half hbls. ale.
473 lbs. corn starch.	324 bots. whiskey.
650 lbs. farina.	124 " catwabs.
2,900 lbs. corn grits.	2 washing machines.
2,345 lbs. dried fruit, asstd.	9 wringers.
735 lbs. dried peaches.	21 doz. tea spoons.
3,188 lbs. dried apples.	2 cork screws.
1,795 lbs. dried blackberries.	5 reams letter paper.
1,026 lbs. prunes.	6 cans chopines.
100 lbs. tamarinds.	6 gross pens.
5 gallons plum butter.	1 gross pen holders.
140 cans canned fruit.	12 doz. fine combs.
10 boxes lemons.	36 doz. coarse combs.
120 lbs. cider jelly.	4 doz. bottles ink.
3,754 lbs. Boston crackers.	1 doz. lanterns.
17,666 lbs. soda.	1 doz. candlesticks.
1,731 bushels potatoes.	500 3 cent postage stamps.
1,175 galls. pickles.	120 cans oysters.

RELIEF WORK AT PORT ROYAL.

PORT ROYAL, VA., May 28, 1864.

• Mr. Anderson reports:

I hardly know when I wrote to you last, what I said, what I didn't say, or what remains to be said; things have been in such a brilliantly unsettled condition, expectations of sudden movements have been so strong, and uncertainties have been so abounding, that we have had a grand combination of the perplexities of establishing a base, those of breaking up a base, and those of doubt as to whether we should do either. You can fancy how much time one would have to write, and, not having written, how difficult it is to recall and systematize the varied events and doubts of each day. Bloor and Dr. Harris would have posted you, up to their departure. Dr. Harris arrived from Fredericksburg, Tuesday noon, as did Capt. Evans, in charge of Mr. Fay's Corps. They were a godsend, as the men whom I had organized under Mr. Thompson, were worn down by twenty-four hours steady labor, in feeding the

wounded. Mr. Thompson's men were immediately relieved; and since then regular watches have been kept.

About 4 P. M., the Kent returned with Dr. Douglas, Mr. Fay, and all the Fredericksburg party, except Harris's train.

We had long and free interchanges of news and plans; and, as I could not well change your instructions, I retained the nominal charge of this as the water-base, but you must distinctly understand that whatever of success may attend our movements and operations is to be, in the far larger degree, ascribed to the experience, skill and maturity of Dr. D— and Mr. F. All the feeding department was assigned unreservedly to Mr. Fay, and Mr. Thompson was instructed to report to him. Dr. Douglas, with his thorough willingness, does everything in and out of his general line that he can best do; and we hold council of war unceasingly. All day Friday we fed and issued supplies to the wounded without stint. All the departments have treated us with a cordiality—and more than cordiality—a willing confidence and cheer, that makes one quite buoyant in approaching them, and working with them. Dr. Cuyler, Dr. Phillips, the representative of Dr. McParlan, at this post, and Dr. McKay, have been especially obliging; and Dr. Cuyler on finding us so diligently at work, said to me to draw on him for any and everything. He lent us stoves, cauldrons, &c., furnished beef stock, coffee and milk, and facilitated our operations in all proper ways, giving us information of the arrival of trains, &c., freely and promptly.

The journals have been kept up, and when there is time we will return to you full account of the feeding and burial departments—and indeed of all. I have no idea how many meals were given; but every wounded man, officers of trains, teamsters, in fact the army generally patronized us. The Commissary's small issuing boat, was not issuing for the first day or two, and in addition to supplying some of the quartermaster's and other messes, we had literally to take care of hundreds. They were brethren of our common cause in distress, and I treated them accordingly, as far as our supplies would permit. On the evening of Friday, the tug Curtin arrived with the Kennedy, and shortly after the Hoboken loomed up through the air. All apprehension of running short was removed—and except fears for Harris's safety, were in good position, and the same evening brought Mr. Briggs, and Dr. McMartee, of California—the former of whom I knew well in that State.

I also took them up to the feeding station where six 60-gallon cauldrons, one stove and one large fireplace were turning out soup,

coffee, tea, farina, pork, &c.; some of the cauldrons had been filled four times that forenoon. Three times would, perhaps, be an average—giving 1,080 gallons of edibles. A train having arrived—at Dr. Douglas's request, I got it a good camp ground, and then a large party of us fed the wounded—our Californians seeing and doing regular work. It was 3 A. M. before we got done.

Saturday was spent in getting everything ready for the movement. Mr. Fay took charge of his establishment, also of determining whom we should take and who not.

We are anchored at the month, and hope to start for Yorktown at 1 A. M. Ought to reach White House or the new base by 4 P. M., Monday. You can rely upon our being in among the first. Did I tell you that Harris arrived last night with all his train safe and sound. He was very tired, and had had a hard time. He rests to-day, and leaves to-morrow with the trains for White House, under escort of 2,000 or 3,000 strong.

He has just brought in twenty-eight wagons loaded with stores, worth many thousands of dollars, and that, too, from a difficult region. Those that know his previous history, very well know that not once nor twice, but many times, he has risen superior to the emergency, and gotten supplies through, under great hazard.

THE ARMY SURGEONS.

The strong testimony borne to the character and qualifications of the Army Surgeons, by Mr. Bloor, in the admirable letters which we publish on another page, reminds us how strong and widely diffused is the prejudice against them. We have left nothing in our power undone to refute it, by the diffusion of the strong testimony on the other side which daily reaches us from our agents. And, in view of the tremendous responsibilities which are at this moment pressing upon the Army Surgeons, we think it may not be amiss to take this opportunity of republishing what one of their number, Surgeon Beach, of the 40th Regiment Ohio Volunteers, said on their behalf, before the Medical Society of General Granger's Army, nearly a year ago.

The character of army surgeons has been so misrepresented, and so misunderstood by the public, away from the scene of their labors, that a word from one of their number may be considered an apology for their shortcomings; but, notwithstanding this, I propose briefly to sketch their character as it is understood, and as it is.

No reader of the Northern daily papers during the last year can be ignorant of the opinion generally entertained of army surgeons, and of the management of the medical department of the army. Inefficiency, gross carelessness, heartlessness and dissipation are intimately associated in the minds of the Northern public with the medical officers of the army. Doubtless each surgeon has a circle of friends who exonerate him from these charges; but, as a body, this is the character attached to us by our Northern friends.

It may not be uninteresting to inquire, for a moment, what causes have led to this state of public opinion. First among the causes we will place the fact that in our vast armies large numbers die from disease. The public knows that four thousand of our soldiers are buried at Nashville; that ten thousand have found a final resting-place on the banks of the Mississippi; that twenty thousand more have sickened and died in our armies in Virginia; and at every place occupied by our troops the green hillock and narrow board alone tell of some friend who went out from the home circle but recently. Without knowing, or without stopping to consider, if the ratio of deaths be less or greater in our armies than in others, this large mortality is associated in the minds of the public with want of capacity, or want of attention on the part of surgeons.

Another fact is, individual cases in which there has been apparent neglect, and which from want of proper explanation are given as positive evidence of the heartlessness of our profession. As an example, an intimate friend of mine was wounded at Richmond, Ky., and died in hospital at Danville. "He died alone at night." I knew nothing of the circumstances attending his death, only that somebody wrote to his wife that the nurses found him dead in his bed, and nothing can ever eradicate from her mind the belief that he was totally neglected, and that the surgeons and hospital attendants were brutes. A case came under my own observation a few weeks since which, if reported without explanation, would cause the same feelings in the minds of friends as did the case above mentioned. Stopping temporarily at a large hospital in Kentucky, the surgeon invited me, late at night, to see two cases with him, both of whom were in a critical condition. We entered the ward, and stopped at the bed-side of patient No. 1. An examination and the opening of a large abscess probably occupied five minutes, and during those five minutes the only two nurses on duty at that time were required in attendance on the surgeon. Immediately after the operation, while the surgeon was absent from the room cleansing his

hands, I walked leisurely around the room, and stopped at the bed-side of patient No. 2. The man was dead. He had died "alone and at night."

In addition to these and similar cases, distorted facts, are the monstrous fabrications of the newspaper correspondents, which, more than all other causes combined, contribute to the character we sustain at home. It is but charitable to suppose that these gentlemen have some foundation in fact for their statements. It is scarcely credible that they would deliberately manufacture sensational letters of this kind, unless they had a grain of truth to fall back upon. We take it for granted, then, that they do not willfully trifle with a subject so intimately mixed with all the finer feelings of our nature, but that they take one case as a type of the whole. Adopt this rule, and how easily may injustice be done to our profession.

I remember distinctly the impression made in a community where I resided, a year since, by the statement of a Cairo letter-writer. The letter was a scathing article on the surgeons and the bad management of the hospitals at some point in the West; and among other statements that left the reader to dream of untold horrors, was one that a "patient in the last agony called the surgeon to him, raised himself in bed, struck the surgeon with all his force, and with a smile of content upon his face sank back and died." This was given as evidence of the feeling engendered by the brutality of surgeons. Now, supposing this incident really occurred, which is not at all probable, is it just that the act of a delirious man should be cited as an index of the feelings generally entertained by the patients in our hospitals toward their surgeons?

Another cause of this misunderstanding of our *true* character is found in the letters home of a certain class of patients, both in hospitals and out. They are chronic grumblers; disappointed applicants for a discharge or furlough; men who see only the surgeon between them and the accomplishment of their ends. I have very frequently been approached by this class of soldiers, and been told that their "doctors" paid no attention to the sick men; that "they would see a sick man die rather than to discharge him, or let him go home on a sick furlough." How much weight should be given such testimony?

And again: People of the North think they have the evidence of their own senses, and that they cannot be mistaken in the fact that army surgeons are careless, indifferent and heartless. A great many visit our large general hospitals, and of course find their sick friends very differently situated from what they would be at home. They find them in large wards, containing

perhaps one hundred patients. Of this number, some are reading, some writing, others engaged in cheerful conversation; while, perhaps, the friend so anxiously sought for is dying. The whole scene is so different from anything they ever associated with the sick chamber, that they go away with painful impressions. Such, doubtless, would be the feelings of many upon visiting our elegant hospitals in Nashville; and how much more would their sensibilities be shocked could they visit some regimental hospitals, far away from sanitary supplies, and where the hospital supplies of bedding, etc., were insufficient for the proper accommodation of the sick. They would find them in rude bunks filled with straw, their bedding, their blankets, and with their knapsacks for their pillows. They would forget that the sick had the benefit of pure air, attentive nurses, and the best food that could be procured for them; they would forget that the sick themselves were contented; and would go away with the impression that this was horrible treatment of sick men, and that the surgeon in some way was responsible for it.

Such, gentlemen, I imagine, are some of the causes giving rise to the not very enviable reputation we sustain at home.

Before defining what I take to be the real character of army surgeons, we will inquire what character they might, *a priori*, be expected to sustain. In Ohio, and I believe in nearly all of the States, no physician can receive a commission as surgeon until he has passed a satisfactory examination by a competent board. To be admitted to this examination, the applicant must not only have graduated in medicine, but he must bring certificates that he has sustained himself creditably for a certain number of years as a practitioner, and that he is of good moral character. These conditions, if observed—and I believe they are, as a rule—offer almost perfect security to the public that no considerable number of army surgeons enter the service inefficient or dissipated. Ought we not to expect from a body of men who enter the army only on the presumption that they are of liberal education, skill in their profession, and of good moral standing in the communities in which they have lived, using industry and a conscientious attention to the responsible duties assigned them? Most assuredly; and such, I am convinced, is the character we sustain with those acquainted with all the facts connected with our position in the army.

My own term of service in the army extends through the past year. During that time I have been associated with the medical officers of the troops in Eastern Kentucky, those collected at Gallipolis, Ohio, last September, and more recently in Tennessee. And among them all I have met

with but one drunken surgeon, and but few who were not making use of all the means in their power to prevent disease and restore health. I have visited many hospitals where there was a lack of many things for the comfort of the sick, but none where the surgeons were careless or unkind.

I confess, gentlemen, that when ordered to this department I expected to find disorder and confusion—not from want of capacity or honesty on the part of surgeons, but as a necessary feature of a large army. I expected to find some grounds for the clamor against army surgeons in the want of accommodations for the large number of sick in the Army of the Cumberland. But in this I was disappointed. Instead of finding crowded and poorly furnished hospitals in Nashville, I found them arranged on the most magnificent scale, fitted up with every comfort, and in a style that is thought luxurious by soldiers accustomed to camp life. During a stay of some days in Nashville I visited many of the hospitals, and for my own satisfaction inquired of the many acquaintances I found there among the patients how they were treated; and the answer invariably was, "We are treated well; surgeons and nurses are very attentive."

Another grave charge against the surgeon is, the using for his own comfort and to gratify his own appetite the delicacies, etc., furnished by friends at home to the sick soldier! This charge is as void of foundation in fact as the charge of drunkenness and brutality, and arises from a want of correct knowledge of the manner such things are distributed to the sick. Through the agency of the Sanitary Commission these things are distributed to the various general and regimental hospitals, where they are served out to the men as the judgment of the surgeon would direct; the men consume them without knowing where they come from. In after correspondence with their friends the soldier is asked, "Did you get the box of" something? The answer is "No"—when the fact is, he had consumed it, if it was of suitable nature for him in his condition; and if not, he had used of some other soldiers' delicacies, while they had used his. All the potatoes, onions, dried apples, etc., used in this great army at this time, are not from the quartermaster, but from the Sanitary Commission, which is to the sick soldier as the good Samaritan to "him who fell among thieves."

The duties of the army surgeon are so many and various that it is impossible to more than mention them here. The surgeon who only attends to the sick and wounded of his command, and thinks he has done his whole duty, has a very imperfect knowledge of his obligations.

The first and most important duty of the

surgeon is, to prevent disease; curing it is a secondary matter. The surgeon who prevents disease by a careful study of the causes operating to produce it, and who takes steps to remove these influences, is much more deserving of credit than he who thinks only of curing. In the discharge of this duty it often becomes necessary to change the locality of the camp, to make changes in the cooking and habits of the men, to enforce what seems to them a rigid system of cleanliness of their persons, the tents and entire camp—and in doing these things we are frequently brought into unpleasant collision with our officers. It is not every military commander that understands the laws of hygiene, or who has the leisure or inclination to study them very carefully; and the number is equally small who do not regard those surgeons who are always making changes and suggestions troublesome at least. Doubtless every surgeon present has at some time in his experience met with opposition from his commanding officer, or at least had his suggestions treated with an indifference almost insulting to himself. I acknowledge that I do not know exactly where our authority stops, or rather begins, in this matter; but I think I know what our duty is—and that is, never to yield a point that involves the health of the men under our charge.

One word as to our duty to the men themselves, and I am done. There is much in our daily routine of duties, and in our relative position to the men, calculated to make us abrupt in our treatment of them, unless we guard against it. We should treat a sick soldier with the same courtesy, and give the same attention to his complaints, that we would to a sick citizen. In the daily examination of three or four score of men we meet with a few humbugs—men who are trying to avoid duty by getting on the sick list. These old soldiers may be dismissed in a manner the circumstances may seem to require. But the soldier who is sick, or who thinks he is, is deserving of a careful examination that will allow us to prescribe understandingly, and not that hasty disposal of the case that I know I am sometimes guilty of myself, and which must be bitterly felt by a patient whose feelings are at all sensitive.

HOSPITAL CLOTHING.

Correction.—In the pattern for Flannel Shirt in No. 13 of the BULLETIN, the slope for the neck in "Half of Back" should be one inch instead of three inches, as given.

The drawing of the diagram for "Half of Sleeve" is erroneous as regards the slope at the top of sleeve. The dimensions as given, are, however, correct. Also, this sleeve should be faced at the wrist with flannel instead of silesia. In cutting sleeves, put the wrist of one against the wrist of another, and the long triangular

piece of flannel left at the side will cut a collar. Wrist facings, by joining in the middle, can be cut off the pieces cut out of the front of the shirt in arm size.

SCENES IN FREDERICKSBURG.

FRIDAY, May 26, 1861.

DEAR MRS. —You have, I suppose, by this time, received the duplicate of a letter I wrote some days ago to one of the Commission's supply correspondents, giving an account of a trip I had just made to Belle Plain, with reference to the relief work of the Commission in the field.

I left Washington again on Tuesday morning, and getting to Belle Plain in company with Mrs. Gibbons, (of army hospital fame,) and of Rev. Mr. Channing, of Washington, and others; and there, in their company, feeding and ministering to the ghastly crowds that were lifted out of the constantly-arriving ambulance trains into the boats assigned to convey them to the hospitals in Washington, I passed to the hospital tents "on the hill"—a little way from the dock—two long parallel rows of them, commencing on the side with the kitchen and feeding lodge of the Commission, whence they were without trouble constantly supplied with hot coffee and beef tea, iced water and lemonade, milk punch, wines and stimulants, farina, and whatever else in the way of prepared sustenance was needed. Bedding, clothing, sponges, towelling, bandages, lint, utensils of all kinds and whatever else is required in a sick tent, were bountifully dispensed by Mr. Knapp—of long experience in the Peninsular campaign and elsewhere in similar work—and his assistants, from the store barge, a few yards off, alongside the dock—which barge is continually replenished by steamers from Washington to the amount of some fifty tons a day. The steamer on which our people principally relied during the Peninsular campaign, (the *Elizabeth*,) has become a household word among sanitarians, and I may therefore mention that, (true to all the experience of the Commission,) whether as regards the intelligent collectors and forwarders, or the inanimate vehicles of supplies, that the feminine element is their main support? The name of our new boat is the *Mary S. Rapley*.

It was an hour or two after midnight before I had gone the rounds of the hospitals, and then I had the satisfaction of seeing most of the inmates comfortably sleeping—after the refreshment of having their hunger and their thirst assuaged, their wounds dressed, and above all, perhaps, the cessation from their horrible journey over the rutty hills, and interlying quagmires between the battle-fields and their present place of rest. By six o'clock the next morning, (after a night mainly occupied, so far as I was concerned, in strenuous efforts to go to sleep in the midst of the hubbub, and in involuntary listening to the extraordinary remarks of the contrabands, who kept up a constant stream of boxes, barrels, conversation and guffaws past the place where I lay on deck,) we began the journey to Fredericksburg ourselves in empty returning ambulances, and as the hours and our bruises increased we had an opportunity of testing the probable feelings of wounded men undergoing such an ordeal. But the fault is in the roads, not the vehicles. I think the four-wheeled ambulances as good a compromise as possible between the conditions desirable for wounded men, and the impossibility of using lighter-sprung wagons over army roads.

Arriving at Fredericksburg in the middle of the day, we found it one vast hospital. Its principal street is some mile or more in length, with several parallel and a number of cross streets, and nine out of ten of the houses and shops, and all the churches and public buildings that are not demolished by shell or riddled by bullets, are filled with wounded men. Even the store occupied by the "Embalmers of the dead," has many living subjects among the dead ones; though accustomed as they are to death on every side, the patients do not consider the proximity in such an unfavorable light as civilians would. A few doors from the house in which Washington's early days were passed, (and the garden of which was, I presume, the scene of the cutting of the fruit-tree by his juvenile hatchet,) Dr. Douglas, Chief of Inspection of the Commission, and the volunteer ladies and gentlemen who so zealously assist in the good work, have their quarters, and thither on the day I was there, a number of patients,

requiring the constant supervision of some of them had been removed. Through the open windows of the rear rooms float the odors of the flowers of early summer to the patients within, and those whose cool pallets are in the wide hall, with its old-fashioned panelling of wood meeting the wooden-black cornice of the ceiling, look out through the open back-door upon a wilderness of roses—a large basket full of which has just been distributed to the poor fellows throughout the town—most of them grasping at them more eagerly than at the milk-punch—by one of the kind hearted gentlemen of our party. If their time were not so much more valuable by the side of the impromptu cooking affairs and couches they have evoked from chaos, the roses should of course have been presented by the ladies—but at all events, they came originally from a lady: not one of “our” women, but the owner of the house—a widowed gentlewoman, who sighs that such evil days should have fallen on the close of her eighty years’ pilgrimage—and, like Washington’s mother, thinks that it may, perhaps, be a good thing to be a great general, but that for her part she thinks that Lee and Grant had both much better be at home attending to their farms than engaged in such dreadful doings. The North and South have lived in peace all these years, and why can’t they continue to do so? What dreadful things she could tell me of the division of families caused by this wicked war. So and So has two sons in the Confederate army and two in the Federal. Such a happy family they were once, and now trying to take each other’s life; and for her part she had been stripped of almost every thing. The houses and stores in the town from which she derived her income, have been destroyed, or are appropriated to their own uses, without payment, now by one army and now by the other. I heard similar talk in Culpepper while our army held it, and one hears it every where throughout the border States; and it is only here that the full horrors of this cruel war can be appreciated. It is impossible—as I think it would be unnatural—for the majority of the old people either North or South, to take the partizan view which is necessarily, for the purposes of Providence,

taken by the young and middle-aged in the two contending sections.

Round the corner from the poor old lady’s house is the store-house of the Commission, besieged every day on the arrival of our wagon loads of supplies—generally some twenty—from the base, with such crowds as compel an officer of the Commission to enter by the back way, if he wants to get in without waiting for an hour or two. Next door to this is a large store used as a hospital by one of our volunteer ladies; and at the back of both, conveniently accessible to both supplies and patients, is the tent she uses as a cook-house. A door or two off is a shop used as an office by the Relief Force, of which there are at present distributed throughout the army of the Potomac some two hundred members, under the superintendence of Mr. Fay, of Massachusetts, a volunteer throughout the war in such work. Several other ladies and a number of physicians from civil life have charge of hospitals in different parts of the town under the auspices of the Commission; and the Relief Agents zealously assist them in their labors, which are herculean, as each fresh train of ambulances arrives from the field, and in those hospitals where the Government supply of surgeons is generally equal to the demand on their skill, they still continue such ministrations as may be carried on without medical co-operation, and these are many.

We are in one of the church hospitals, we will suppose. The pews are set two together, and the backs taken off when necessary, to form couches for the patients. The vestry is turned into an operating room. In one corner of the church is a good woman who has not quitted the half-delirious patient whose brow she is bathing with bay water for one hour in the last twenty. The altar is put to one side, and in its place two pews cradle a young boy who does not seem to be over fifteen years old. He was brought in it was supposed in a dying condition; but the good Samaritan who is just directing to the far West a letter he has written to the boy’s mother at his dictation, has, with his good things and better words, brought such a light into the boy’s eyes that he expresses the utmost confidence that he will be able to write to

his mother himself the next day, and tell her that he is safe from the effects of this wound, and ask her to pray that he may be spared in future battles, and rejoin her and his sisters and brothers in their happy Wisconsin home "when his time is out."

Further down the town and not far from the unfinished tomb of Washington's mother, standing ostensibly as a monument to her worth, but practically as a monument to the genius of the universal Yankee nation for chipping and whittling, is a large old-fashioned mansion, rich in panelled wainscoting, carved wooden chimneys, plaster arabesque ceilings and tablets, and landscaped wall paper; and in one of its rooms lies a gray-haired man, looking dreamily out through the open window by which his pallet is set, on a beautiful lawn thickly shaded with fine old trees, which slope down to the swampy meadow and heights beyond, which drank up so much precious blood in the terrible charge of December, 1862. Perhaps the fair scene before him is like that on which he has so often looked from the porch of his quiet house in his far off little Vermont farm. But he will never look on it again—at least, with his earthly eyes. He will never again look at the rising of the sun, which is now with its setting beams gilding the tree-tops and falling through them, checkered with waving shadows on the lawn beneath. The wound from which most of his life blood has flowed, has left him white and weak, but it does not pain him: so he looks quietly round, thanking one for having written his last letter to his "folks;" another for shading his eyes from the sun with the fan which, until complaining of the cold creeping over him has been used to cool him; and another for offering the farther assistance which he does not need. He is only a sergeant, but "had as lief be a private in such a cause." He was a deacon in his town, and "done the biggest part in getting up a company" from it, the captaincy of which was offered him; but he thought he hadn't "education" enough to do the "writin' part of the business," and declined. But, thank God, he had "educated" his sons, and one of them who had entered the company with himself had been promoted, grade after grade, from the cor-

poralship to the captaincy. His wife had dissuaded him from "joining" the army at that time—but after the Peninsular campaign, "he couldn't stand it no longer—had helped to get up another regiment in his township, and now here he was. Well, he was satisfied he was in the Lord's hands, and he would die in the faith that the Lord would stand by the Union and the stars and stripes to the end. He hadn't a speck of doubt about it." He'd like to know if his son, the Captain, whose regiment had been in the fight with his own, was still alive, but he couldn't find out; and he would give all he was worth to see his wife and daughter once more; but he had always told them to prepare for this, and hoped the Lord would give them strength to bear the news.

I had intended to tell you of many other incidents which would interest you, but time fails. A mail carrier is about to take his chance of rebel scouts and guerrillas, and this will go with him. If you get it, I will ask you to return me a copy when I let you know that I have got back to Washington.

I left Fredericksburg yesterday morning by daybreak, and am now seated a few rods from the head-quarters of Grant and Meade, in front of the tent of a hospitable young officer from your city. At this time yesterday, the woods around reverberated with the cannonading and musketry of the fight on the right of our line, between Gen. Tyler's Division and the enemy, and to-day, the surgeons have been busy with several hundred wounded men. Another letter, either to yourself, or in copy, when I get back to Washington, will tell you something more of what I have seen.

IN DIVOUAC, NEAR THE NORTH ANNA RIVER, VA.,
May 24, 1864. }

My last letter gave an account of the way in which I "assisted," as the French would say, at the fight between the forces of Gen. Warren, of the 5th corps, with the help of part of the 6th, and the rebel Gen. Hill, on the evening of yesterday, the 23d inst. After our day-break breakfast the next morning I made my way to the hospitals, which had been established while the engagement was going on in an open grassy space, interspersed with bushes and young trees, and skirting the road which crossed the North Anna River about a mile and a

quarter (I should think) ahead. They consisted of a number of, good-sized tents, spread with pine boughs, and scattered about the grounds were the operating tables, portable dispensaries, &c. I met a number of the wounded men I had helped along the night before, and was glad to hear many of them express their appreciation of the kindness and care with which they had been attended to by the surgeons. These latter had been up all night, but there was as yet no relaxation to their labors, for the ambulances were still coming in with the wounded. I do not know that I shall have a better opportunity than the present, and I desire therefore to record here my conviction, in opposition I think to the general impression in the community, and particularly to the female portion of it, that there is nowhere to be found a body of men, who, as a class, are more untiring, devoted and self-sacrificing in the discharge of duties—the most responsible, exacting and exhausting—than army surgeons. There are exceptions, too many of which I have encountered in an official intercourse with them of three years standing; but during that time my estimate of them as a body has steadily increased, and this my last experience with them in the field has confirmed and heightened all my previous good impressions. I take pleasure as a non-medical man, in expressing emphatically my opinion as to the high standard of mental and moral qualities they apply to their professional duties—(without being competent to judge of their professional qualities pure and simple)—the more so because my official correspondence has shown me how much they have been suspected and undervalued by the home staying community—while in general culture they compare most favorably with any class of officers in the army.

Thanks to the untiring zeal of the surgeons and their assistants, and to their being well stocked in the field with Governmental medical supplies, those of the patients who had been already operated upon were lying on the fresh, soft fragrant pine boughs, with which the tents were thickly strewn, in a condition of tolerable comfort—those at least whose wounds admit of any comfort, and fortunately, where well

cared for, these are the majority. Well washed, and dressed in clean shirt and drawers—every one marked with the "U. S. Sanitary Commission" stamps, for the lack of these was one of the gaps we had bridged over—and many of them enjoying their pipes or cigars, and chatting over their experience in the "imminent deadly breach" of the evening before—the scene of the whole, however terrible, was not altogether unrelieved in parts. It is amusing to see the affection they bear for their pipes. One man I saw seriously wounded in most of his limbs, lifted out of one of the ambulances that had just arrived. His first thought was for his pipe, but he had no hand in which to carry it, so he desired it to be put in his mouth, and carrying it between his lips was himself borne to the operating table.

One young lad I found reading a hymn book, which he said had probably saved his life the night before. It was in his waistcoat pocket during the engagement, and a minié ball, which would otherwise have gone into his breast, had glanced against its cover and fallen to the bottom of his pocket. He showed me the ball with much satisfaction, and told me he hoped he should live to get back to Wisconsin and show it to his mother, who had given him the hymn book. He had, however, a few minutes before been shot in the leg. A man lying with one of his arms off next the narrator, was very anxious that I should provide him also with a hymn book, but whether he was influenced most by pity or by prudence, I shall not pretend to say. There was one young fellow from your section of country—though I cannot recall the name of the town or village he mentioned—he was severely but not painfully wounded, who seeing some clean linen rag which one of the doctors had left on the ground a little distance off, asked me to tear him off a piece that would serve him as a pocket handkerchief. Thinking the surgeon might have set apart the linen for some special purpose, and preferring in any case to give him a *bona fide* handkerchief, if I had one left, I felt in my pocket and there at its bottom was the last of my small store. It was rather a nice affair, the cambric not of the finest, but with

quite a stylish border round its edge, and he pronounced it "bully" as I handed it to him. The outside fold had, as usual, the Commission's stamp, but it soon appeared that there was still another mark on it, for he had scarcely unfolded it, and held it out for an admiring inspection, before he uttered quite a shriek of delight, and asked me if I knew his folks at home, and if they had given me the handkerchief to hand to him. It appeared that besides our mark, there was worked in thread the name of a relief society in his native place, and he gave sundry reasons for his positive assertion that the marking must have been done by none other than his little sister Lizzie. Without perhaps fully appreciating his arguments, I saw no good reason for disturbing his impression, and left him quite happy in its indulgence.

Passing from one tent to another, I found a Chaplain standing by two stretchers, the occupant of each lying, with stiff outstretched limbs, and the quiet upturned face covered with the blanket, which was now to serve as a winding sheet. Another Chaplain appeared in a moment, with two men bearing another stretcher, the corpse covered with the old grey overcoat which had shielded him from so many storms, and served him so often for blanket or pillow. The bearers pick up the stretcher, and they, the two Chaplains, and myself, are all that follow the warriors to their grave. A few paces off, in a little space between two clumps of bushes and saplings, the wide grave is being dug—there is but one for the three comrades in battle and death—by the three men, who take their turn in digging and resting beneath the burning rays of the unclouded overpowering sun. It is evidently a matter of pride and conscience with them to dig deep and make, as one terms it, "a handsome grave." Their oaths and rough talk are silenced. The youngest of them, rather a smart young sergeant, is obviously bent on making a good impression on the chaplains, and talks somewhat learnedly and sentimentally on the way in which they must have received their wounds, and on our all having to come to this, on the field or in our beds, he does not see that it makes much difference—but he talks quiet-

ly and soon stops, working steadily with the others, who have nothing to say except to interchange some undertoned remark as to the earth being loose in this spot, or a stone being in the way there. Just as they are giving the finishing strokes, some one hurries up, claims one of the bodies to be sent home to his friends, and the two men with him carry it off. The diggers agree to leave a third of the space unfilled with soil for some other body—"there will be many graves wanted through the day"—they leap up from the grave and tell the chaplains it is ready, then lean on their spades and uncover their heads. We also uncover, and one of the chaplains reads aloud from his little pocket bible, "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept—for since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead," and the rest of the chapter. He is followed by the other chaplain in a short address, followed by a prayer, then the uncoffined forms are lowered, the fresh earth covers them more closely, (and more kindly it seems to me,) than a wooden box would—the empty space left by their side for whoever shall come next,—wooden boards inscribed with their names, companies and regiments, are placed at their heads, and there we leave them to their long rest, one wrapped in his blanket, while the other—

"Lay like a warrior taking his rest,

"With his martial cloak around him."

Coming out of the inclosure, I stopped to talk to several of a crowd—some three hundred—of rebel prisoners, who stood or sat in two groups under guard—some of them in great trepidation lest the shells sent by their own people should reach them. (The shelling and musketry, but more especially the cannonading, goes on, more or less, all the time.) One of them was a South Carolina Colonel, named Brown, I am told, who sat on the ground whittling a piece of stick with his pen-knife, which induced a fat officer who stood over him, and probably resented the cutting down from its maximum proportions of even a piece of wood, to inform him that he would certainly be taken for a Yankee if he persisted in whittling. The Colonel only grinned, however, and went

on paring; perhaps, beginning to entertain the idea that worse things might befall him than to be taken for a Yankee. One of them, an innocent looking, mild eyed young lad—as many of them are—is the son of the woman who lives in the log-cabin by the side of which I am now writing, and is now, therefore, a prisoner within a few yards of his mothers' house. The poor woman has been to see him and declares, with many tears, that he was led away by his neighbors against her entreaties. Her trouble is shared by the boy's grandfather, and by several young sisters, very pretty and delicate looking, notwithstanding that they have no shoes, and wear such uncrinolined gowns of striped home-made stuff as a Biddy would scorn to use for scrubbing cloth in the North, and live in a cabin of two rooms, log-oiled, and log-walled inside as well as outside, and hardly anything in it but an old wardrobe, a rickety table, a couple of beds, with the inevitable counterpane of checkered stuff, and equally inevitable spinning-wheel.

An ambulance train, loaded with wounded, leaves here probably this afternoon for Fredericksburg or Port Royal, whichever way is most free from guerrillas—and by this, if it goes, I shall seek an outlet from the field—but I shall trust this to head-quarters' mail-bag rather than carry it myself to Washington, for I think it likely it will thus pass through there on its way to you sooner than I shall reach the place.

Very truly and respectfully yours,

ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Assistant Secretary.

LETTER WRITING IN CAMP.

A special aid strolling about the extensive grounds occupied by the hospitals, finds many duties presenting themselves, of a different character from the nursing and feeding which most pertain to his office; his bagdo brings him many a call from those who, far from home and friends, want to send "line" to those; for one he will write a letter, to another furnish mail facilities for a letter already written; another has gone so far as to indite as well as he can his messages of love to those at home, and wants it directed in a more legible hand; another wants a sheet of paper and an envelope. It is an important part of our duties in the hospitals to attend to the correspondence of the sick and

wounded, and many a touching message are we called upon to convey. I was impressed by the simple honesty and prudence of a private who was lying in one of the tents, sick with a dangerous disease; I asked him if I should say to his wife that he was better? "No," said he, "don't give her anything to be laying out upon." He evidently thought his disease might prove fatal, and any encouraging words would be hoilding up, perhaps, a false hope. There is great delicacy of feeling exhibited by many of these suffering men, and often a reluctance to divulge their private griefs, in strong contrast to the "mockery of woe," not unfrequently met with among the more educated classes. Let not this secretiveness be too summarily placed to the account of insensibility; the soldier is not apt to be a man of words; he is ashamed to betray a tenderness of feeling which may appear faint-hearted; as one said to me, when I spoke of his endurance under suffering, "it does not become a soldier to complain."

A regiment of infantry from the front, after a long march of seventeen miles on a dusty road, almost without food, passing our tent saw some of the aids with the badge of the Sanitary Commission on their hats, "Ah," says one wayward veteran, "there's the Sanitary; that's what I've been wanting to see." These poor fellows immediately wanted soft bread, and in the absence of any supply of this, were provided with Boston soft crackers, to their great relief, washing them down with the best coffee, prepared at one of the feeding stations.

WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR OUR SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

[From the *Agriculturist*.]

WHITE HOUSE, Va., June 24, 1864.

[The readers will please give the entire credit of the June and July numbers of the *Agriculturist* to my worthy editorial associates, Prof. Thnrber, Col. Weld, Mr. Fiteh, and their assistants and correspondents. Five weeks ago today, I left home to personally aid for a few days in the care of the wounded. The days have lengthened to weeks, and I cannot yet consent to leave this important and interesting field of labor. I even begrudge the brief time devoted to this hasty letter, for every moment I can be in the camp gives opportunity to contribute something to the comfort of a suffering fellow. I may perhaps run home for a day or two, to attend to some-important business, but with this exception, I feel it a duty, as well as the highest pleasure, to remain near the battle fields, so long as hundreds of men are almost daily struck down, and while so much can be done to allevi-

ate their sufferings. It is the more my duty, as my health continues very good, notwithstanding the severity of the night and day labor, the absence of regular wholesome meals, of beds, or of any of the comforts of home, or civilization even. I have so far felt none of the evil influences of these malarious regions, which seriously affect so many others. I doubt not our readers will readily excuse me for present inattention to correspondence, to business, and to the reading columns.]

My notes last month to my associates, which I see they took the liberty to print, left me at Fredericksburg. Since then we have been to Belle Plain again, to Aquia Creek, (May 22,) down the Potomac and up the Rappahannock to Port Royal, (May 25,) and to Fredericksburg again, (May 26,) to bring away the last of the wounded; back to Port Royal, then down the Rappahannock and Chesapeake, up the York River, and to this point, White House, on the Pamunkey River, where we arrived Monday, May 30. The work at these several points has been much the same, viz., the reception and care of wounded and sick, sent to the rear from the battle field. At each place, and especially at Fredericksburg and here, we have heard the almost constant roar of cannons, sometimes in too rapid succession to admit of counting the distinct discharges of the heavier guns, even, and we have almost learned to plan our work ahead for a given number of wounded, by the character and direction of the firing.

Of the character of our work, any one can judge, by thinking what would be done in a household where one of its members had been maimed by accident. How many attentions would be bestowed, how many comforts would be planned, how would the sympathies of the whole neighborhood be called forth for miles around. Here we have thousands of maimed men, some of them pierced and torn in every conceivable manner—not one in a house, but often a score or more, on the ground, under a single large tent. When soldiers are disabled, they are sent to the rear, where the surgeon performs such hasty dressing and other operations as may be most needed. As soon as circumstances allow, they are then sent to the base of supplies, in ambulances, (covered spring wagons,) or often in springless army wagons. The guerrillas that hover around the rear, make it necessary to send a strong military guard along with each train of wounded, and also preclude the attendance of civilians to feed and care for the wounded while on the way. Such help only is given as can be afforded by the drivers and the soldiers detailed to attend them. The

comparatively few Sanitary Commission wagons and relief men allowed at the front, do what they can for the men before they leave the field hospitals. It is these famished, weary, hungry, often tired and fainting men, that we are trying to receive and provide for to the utmost of our ability. And God be thanked for the noble enterprise of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and for the patriotic hearts and hands that have supplied its treasury with the means for carrying abundant supplies to the points where needed. I have sent you a partial list of the stores brought to this point, which is but one of the fields of labor. I cannot begin to describe the work done. My note book, and the broader pages of memory, would furnish details enough to fill a hundred columns in the *Agriculturist*. A few items must suffice.

At Belle Plain a large force of men, in alternate squads, were occupied night and day, from May 19 to May 25, in feeding the men with coffee, milk punch to the fainting, soft bread and crackers, medicines, and many delicacies—in giving clothing, crutches, arm slings, blankets, etc.; in dressing wounds, in cheering the desponding, in conversing with the dying, in writing letters for those unable to write for themselves, in receiving and forwarding letters, parcels, etc.; in short, in every way in which they could comfort the living, and in burying those who died when thus far on their way home. The work done at that point alone, a thousand times repaid all the great and small Sanitary Fairs ever held, and all the home efforts ever put forth.

At the same time, 32 four-horse wagons were engaged in hauling supplies to the army, and especially to Fredericksburg, where the same kind of work was going on, but on a still larger scale, if possible. Central distributing stores were established, and the city was districted off, and squads of relief men assigned to each district. (The agents of the Commission accompanying the army, are called the Relief Corps, and those at the rear with the wounded, are termed the Auxiliary Relief Corps.) These latter consist partly of regularly employed men, (who are previously trained to the work of dressing wounds, preparing food for the sick, etc.,) but more largely of volunteers, who give their time and best energies freely, but who work entirely subject to the regular Auxiliary Relief Corps.

These companies, with temporary captains to direct, went from house to house in their several beats, and commenced their good work. Though numbering over one hundred and fifty, there was at one time an average of nearly fifty

for each one to look after. Those skilled in that branch, assisted in dressing wounds; others carried around and dispensed prepared foods and drinks, etc., from the sanitary stores. The memory of the hours and days occupied in this will never dim. That clean, nice flannel shirt, made perhaps by your hands, gentle reader, or at least bought with your money or work, and put in place of a blood or dirt-soiled one, by the hand that writes this, perhaps comforted a son, or brother, or relative of the maker herself. I see a pair of bare feet of a noble man stretched upon the floor, unable to raise himself up; I hasten to put upon them a pair of home-knit socks. Who knit them? Perhaps the one that reads this. Somebody knit them for somebody's son—and that is enough. Never shall I forget one pair given. A mark on them indicated the knitter's name. The soldier took them in his hands, looked them over and over again—then kissed them, hugged them to his bosom, and turning upon his side, wept. I could not stay there, to ask what were his thoughts. These hands of mine are hallowed by the hundreds of pairs of socks, the shirts, the drawers, the arms-ings, the crutches, the pillows, the ring-cushions, the slippers, etc., that they have been permitted to give to such men during five weeks past. And every hand that has helped to make these things, or helped by work, or dimes, or dollars, to buy them, is a nobler hand therefore. I wish I could give a thousandth part of the items. I have said nothing of the tens of thousands of cups of good coffee, prepared with pure milk, brought condensed in cans, and sweetened with good sugar; of other thousands of cups of tea; of milk punch when stimulants were most needed; of farina, of beef or chicken broth, which modern invention enables us to carry fresh to the field. Imagine at least a hundred persons constantly preparing and bearing these things to our sick and wounded and brave men, far from home and home comforts and care, and again with me thank God that it was put into the hearts of the people, to work in fairs and at home for our soldiers, and that you and I have been privileged to bear some part in this noblest enterprise of this or any other age. Let us keep on doing. We are in the midst of the mightiest struggle the world has even seen. For thirty-six days an almost incessant battle has gone on, and the end is not yet. But I must hasten.

At Port Royal, Va., the same work was repeated for three days and nights. The Sanitary Commission steamer, loaded down with stores and with relief men, were on hand two hours before the first wounded man arrived, and we

fed and cared for all who came in, until they were sent for from Washington, whether they were carried direct by water, in comfortable, commodious steamers.

At this point, (White House,) we arrived two days in advance of the wounded. You should see our eight distributing and feeding tents on shore, and the busy relief agents, cooking, hastening from tent to tent with pailsfull of the best nutriment, handfuls of clothing, etc. Shall I speak of a single day's work of my own, in illustration? The men had for thirty-six days been away from their usual access to entlers, or other sources of supply. I found a great eagerness for tobacco, among those accustomed to use this narcotic; the longing seemed to be intensified by their condition. Yesterday I went around with a basket on each arm, and a haversack on my neck. A rough estimate of the day's work, from the morning and evening's stock on hand, showed that I had given out writing paper and envelopes to about 700 men; pencils to 90; a large lot of newspapers sent direct to me by Mr. Felt, of Salem, Mass.; crutches, to 136 wounded below the knee, who were thus enabled to get up and move about; arm-slings to 115 wounded in the arm, (perhaps you made one of these reader;) a piece of chewing tobacco each, to about 370; smoking tobacco and matches to about 450, and pipes to 73 who had lost theirs. (A wounded man seldom brings anything from the field except what is in his pockets.) This is the only day I have attempted to keep an account of the work done. With my outfit of baskets, etc., I looked like, and was not inappropriately dubbed a "Yankee Pedler." I doubt if any other Yankee Pedler ever did a better business in one day, or one that paid a thousandth part as well. The pleasant running conversation kept up all day was cheering, to myself at least, and the "God bless yous" and cheerful "good mornings" or "good evenings" responded from every tent as I left it, was good pay. Everywhere I met others of our relief agents bearing other things, or bending over the wounded men, dressing their wounds, and literally "poaring in oil and wine." The sleep of that night was sweetened by bearing out thirty-eight nice warm new blankets to as many blanketless men whom I found, as I came from a distant part of the camping ground at a late hour in the evening. These men had been brought in after dark, and had got separated from the rest of their train. I am sure some of their lives were thus saved. I speak thus particularly of my own work because I can speak of that best. Almost two hundred others are earnestly and feelingly laboring to the utmost of

their strength in the different departments. Such is the work at White House Landing to-day. May I not neglect the Agriculturist another month, if need be?

ORANGE JUDD.

Mr. Judd adds, writing from Whitehouse, June 7:

It will be a matter of interest to the contributors to the funds, and especially to the friends of the soldiers, to know what is supplied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The following is only a partial list of the supplies on hand at this place, yesterday. They are on board of half a dozen steamers, barges and schooners in the river, and are being carried on shore, part to eight distributing tents, and part to some forty four horse wagons, which are carrying them to the "front." There are about 100 teamsters, porters, etc., engaged in handling the stores, mending the boats, etc., and 150 or more of the hired and volunteer relief corps, engaged in distributing directly to the wounded and sick, and in dressing wounds and caring for the men otherwise. These articles are all needed; the use of most of them will be obvious to every one; others are required for tents and other work.

This list contains an assortment forwarded from the general storehouses, about in the proportion they are expected to be needed. Daily orders go off for each article of which the stock is being drawn down.

6,298 cans condensed milk.
2,512 lbs. soft crackers.
1,866 lbs. farina.
4,556 lbs. sugar.
16,397 cans tomatoes.
794 lbs. corn starch.
8,310 lbs. prep'd chocolate.
804 lbs. ground coffee.
192 lbs. extract coffee.
60 lbs. cocoa.
1,000 lbs. oat meal.
400 lbs. corn meal.
34 lbs. gelatin.
100 lbs. macaroni.
80 lbs. arrow root.
200 lbs. rice.
180 lbs. butter.
11 bbls. flour.
447 cans peaches, (2 lb. c.)
160 cans pears, (3 lb. cans.)
160 doz. fresh eggs.
161 cans green beans.
215 cans roast chicken, 2 lb. c.
500 cans roast turkey, 2 lb. c.
2,407 cans roast beef, 2 lb. c.
338 cans condensed beef soup.
2,200 c. other canned meats.
2 bbls. hams.
516 bottles Jamaica rum.
400 bottles brandy.
600 bottles sherry wine.
1,475 bottles whiskey.
12 bottles cherry brandy.
10 gallons foreign wine.
87 gallons domestic wine.
87 bottles cider.
216 bottles ale hol.
1 package spirits.
2 bbls. molasses.
1,126 bottles ex. of ginger.

360 bot. bay rum, for bathing.
166 boxes lemons.
364 bottles lemon syrup.
81 bbls. porter, in $\frac{1}{2}$ bbls.
65 lbs. spices.
135 gallons tamarind.
785 lbs. tea.
30 lbs. mutton tallow.
18 bedsteads.
907 bed ticks.
11 bales of straw.
789 pillows.
1,345 pillow cases.
512 pillow ticks.
115 mattresses.
964 chambers.
248 candlesticks.
5 large boxes cushions.
977 ring cushions.
510 sheets.
400 woolen blankets.
46 rubber blankets.
993 quilts.
50 bead rests.
159 stretchers.
100 lanterns, for night work.
300 medicine cups.
48 scissors, for nurses.
775 hair combs.
419 pieces mosquito net.
44 pieces old silk.
2 blue calum, for wounds.
826 spit cups.
1,562 handkerchiefs.
3,629 towels.
9,320 tin cups.
120 tin plates.
750 tin basins.
2 large water tanks.
541 tin spoons.

115 tin buckets.
9 cooking stoves.
39 camp kettles.
192 knives and forks.
12 cheap carvers.
5 frying pans.
14 large coffee pots.
7 tinners graters.
12 boxes assorted tin ware.
1 bbd. assorted tin ware.
2 bbls. assorted tin ware.
50 lbs. saleratus.
30 baskets.
4,460 woolen shirts.
1,204 cotton shirts.
1,153 hospital shirts.
671 woolen drawers.
847 Canton flannel drawers.
1,945 cotton socks.
1,645 woolen socks.
893 wrappers.
753 pairs slippers.
6 boxes shoes.
1 box boots.
1 large box pants.
269 gallons pickle.
60 bbls. curried cabbage.
218 bbls. saw kraut.
525 lbs. smoking tobacco.
200 lbs. cheese.
2 sacks salt.
60 wooden pails.
4 medicine boxes.
2 lbs. bromine.
60 lbs. chloroform.
1 box quinine.
1,000 camphor et opii pills.
5 bbls. chloride of lime.
15,500 envelopes.
15 reams letter paper.
1,116 lead pencils.
107 dozen pen holders.
14 gross pens.
104 bottles ink.
3 boxes assorted stationery.

420 palm fans.
20 bales hay.
12 bales straw.
400 bushels oats, for teams.
1 fire proof safe.
40 camp stools.
Large lot assorted lumber.
2 kags nails.
10 lbs. spikes.
24 shovels.
6 axes.
12 bathtubs.
2 saws.
12 banners.
112 brooms.
24 bbls. bandages.
6 bbls. old linen.
50 lbs. bone-rsuds link.
50 lbs. patent lint.
2 lbs. silk ligature.
196 bottles cologne.
camphor.
11 boxes reading matter.
Large bundles newspapers.
714 arm slings.
1,400 pair crutches.
50 lbs. soap.
14 teats.
727 lbs. candles.
140 pads.
3 bales sponges.
2 boxes sponges.
25 lbs. sponges.
144 gross matches.
1111 brooms.
100 hospital lamps.
7 large camp chests, with full assortment of everything in, for field use on the instant.
Extra harness, saddles, bridles, flags, ransoms, shaving brushes, marking pots, etc., etc.

HOMES AND LODGES.

CAIRO.

During the nine weeks ending June 1, the number admitted was 17,469, from 23 different states; of meals furnished, 38,892; of lodgings, 13,062; 1831 were aided in procuring transportation.

NASHVILLE.

During the five weeks ending June 4, the number admitted was 4611, from 25 different states; of meals furnished, 16,353; of lodgings, 4967; transportation was secured for 3933, and \$7527 of pay was collected and paid over.

LOUISVILLE.

The number of meals furnished during the month of May has been 19,790; of lodgings, 6,327.

NEW ALBANY, (IND.)

Number admitted during May, 800; of meals furnished, 1,868; of lodgings, 557.

CAMP NELSON, (KY.)

Number of lodgings furnished during the month, 7,526; of meals, 23,604.

DETROIT.

During the months of March and April there were admitted 1,134; the number of meals furnished was 4,864, and of lodgings, 1,416.

MEMPHIS.

During the five weeks ending June 4, the number admitted has been 1542, from 19 different states; of meals furnished 4289; of lodgings 1296; transportation was procured for 241.

Mr. Christy reports:

The adoption, in March last, of a system of registration additional to the general register of the "Lodge" of the work of special relief at this point, makes it possible to furnish, from time to time, a more extended showing of what has been done in that department than has heretofore been given in my weekly reports. Believing that such a showing may contain some items of interest, I have collected the materials for it from my books, and herewith send them for your perusal.

The period of time embraced is from April 1st to April 30th, inclusive of both dates.

The whole number registered during that period is.....	1,420
Furloughed.....	354
Discharged.....	32
Recurring Service.....	97
Convalescents.....	292
Recruits.....	218
Guards.....	222
Detached Service.....	73

From States, as follows:

Illinois, 453; Iowa, 181; Ohio, 146; Missouri, 75; Indiana, 97; Michigan, 75; Minnesota, 69; Wisconsin, 61; Kentucky, 39; New York, 38; New Jersey, 32; Pennsylvania, 13; Mississippi Marine Brigade, 11; Kansas, 10; Tennessee, 7; Massachusetts, 5; Veteran Reserve Corps, 3; Regular Army, 2; Nebraska, 2; New Hampshire, 1; Maine, 1; Connecticut, 1; Louisiana, (A. D.) 1.

Of these, forty-one were sick, ten crippled in various ways, one sick and crippled, and two wounded.

Number of lodgings furnished.....	1,324
Number of meals furnished.....	4,802

Besides furnishing lodgings and meals as above, we have given additional relief to one hundred and fifty-six out of the one thousand four hundred and ninety-two men, as follows:

Furnished transportation at Government rates, through Quartermaster..	127
Transportation paid by Commission..	2
Carriage within the city to.....	24
Clothing to.....	6
Aid in correcting papers.....	9
Aid in drawing pay.....	13
Amount drawn and paid over.....	\$2,632.77
Medical advice furnished to.....	3
Money given to.....	5
Sent to hospital.....	13
Referred to local relief associations..	6

Rations furnished to seventeen enlisted men on leaving, who could not draw them from the Commissary.

You will have noticed that the work of the Lodge has been gradually diminishing for three months. I had supposed that this decrease would continue. Movements of troops along the Mississippi, and in the adjacent section, warranted this expectation, I think. But the failure of both the Red River expeditions—that under General Steele and that under General Banks—making necessary another campaign, and the concentration of troops here, will, I think, not only check this decline, but rather increase our work.

POINT ISABELLA HOSPITAL, KENTUCKY.

Mr. Payson reports:

By the kindness of Captain T. S. Hill, I was furnished with an ambulance, and taking such stores as were thought to be needed, I started for Camp Burnside on the morning of the 16th. On reaching Hall's Gap, I found the post, which had heretofore been somewhat extensive, broken up, and the stores on hand removed to Crab Orchard. On the following day I reached Somerset, where I expected to find a hospital, but was informed that in March last it was given up, and the patients were removed to Point Isabella, which place I reached at 7 P. M. I was most cordially received by Dr. C. W. Leonard, of the 10th Michigan Cavalry, now acting as post surgeon.

As the former supply of stores which have been sent to this post, and which was very liberal, was now entirely exhausted, the men were very grateful for the articles I took them.

From Dr. Leonard I learned that in January last the hospital was established and put under the immediate care of Dr. Harris, of the 7th Rhode Island. He remained in charge till the 19th of March, when Dr. Leonard was ordered to break up the hospital of which he had charge at Somerset and take charge of that at the Point.

From the establishment of the hospital there have been three hundred patients; of these, thirty-four have died. The prevailing diseases have been typhoid and pneumonia.

The site for the hospital was doubtless thought to be as desirable as at that time could be selected. It is on an eminence some three hundred feet above the river. The ground being very uneven, the hospital tents were pitched in a hollow, although raised some three feet from the ground. They are all floored, and at present dry. Two hospital tents embrace a ward, and in each is a large stone fire-place. It is to be feared that when the heavy rains set in, the water will stand under the tents, unless great care is taken to have proper drainage. The location, with the best of care, is not desirable.

I am happy to say that Dr. Leonard is unremitting in his care of his patients. He visits them regularly twice a day, and all special cases three or four times a day. His labors are very arduous, having now neither clerk nor assistant.

The police of the hospital is good. Every man is required to wash twice a week. There is great fear that the hospital will suffer for the want of good wholesome water. They are obliged to haul all they use from a spring half a mile distant, and keep it in barrels. As there can be no ice, it is all important that they should be fur-

nished with dried currants, raspberry vinegar, and lemons, for cooling drinks. In the general, I can say that all is done for the comfort and restoration of the patients that can be, under the circumstances. There has been a great deficiency of medical supplies, which, it is hoped, will be speedily met. As the great majority of the cases are of a low form, the hospital should be provided with a good supply of stimulants.

There is connected with the hospital a post burial ground. It contains about half an acre uninclosed, and has twenty-nine graves. The names and numbers I will endeavor to send you.

At present the hospital has a capacity of ninety-two beds, all of which are occupied. Efforts are being made to erect suitable buildings on an adjoining hill, near a fine cool spring. Should this effort be successful, it will be of great advantage to the health of the men.

Of the patients, fifteen are from Indiana, nine from Illinois, fifteen from the 10th Michigan Cavalry, and fifty-four from Kentucky.

I also visited the 49th Kentucky, the only regiment now at the post. It has only seven in the hospital. At the sick call, they have some twenty five or thirty cases, mostly diarrhea and intermittent. Although the health of this regiment has been uncommonly good heretofore, there can be no doubt, if they continue in their present camping ground through the hot season, that sickness will increase, as there is much of malarial influence.

NOTES ON NURSING.

CHATTERING HOPES AND ADVICES.

No mockery in the world is so hollow as the advice showered upon the sick. It is of no use for the sick to say any thing, for what the adviser wants is, not to know the truth about the state of the patient, but to turn whatever the sick may say to the support of his own argument, set forth, it must be repeated, without any inquiry whatever into the patient's real condition. "But it would be impertinent or indecent in me to make such an inquiry," says the adviser. True; and how much more impertinent is it to give your advice when you can know nothing about the truth, and admit you could not inquire into it.

To nurses I say—these are the visitors who do your patient harm. When you hear him told: 1. That he has nothing the matter with him, and that he wants cheering. 2. That he is committing suicide, and that he wants preventing. 3. That he is the tool of somebody who makes use of him for a purpose. 4. That he will listen to nobody, but is obstinately bent upon his own way; and 5. That he ought to be called to a sense of duty, and is flying in the face of Providence; then know that your patient is receiving all the injury that he can receive from a visitor.

* How little the real sufferings of illness are known or understood. How little does any one in good health fancy him or even herself into the life of a sick person.

Do, you who are about the sick or who visit the sick, try and give them pleasure; remember to tell them what will do so. How often in such visits the sick person has to do the whole conversation, exerting his own imagination and memory, while you would take the visitor, absorbed in his own anxieties, making no effort of memory or imagination, for the sick person. "Oh! my dear, I have so much to think of, I really quite forgot to tell him that; besides, I thought he would know it," says the visitor to another friend. How could "he know it?" Depend upon it, the people who say this are really those who have little "to think of." There are many burthened with business who always manage to keep a pigeon-hole in their minds, full of things to tell the "invalid."

I do not say, don't tell him your anxieties—I believe it is good for him and good for you too; but if you tell him what is anxious, surely you can remember to tell him what is pleasant too.

A sick person does so enjoy hearing good news; for instance, of a love and courtship, while in progress to a good ending. If you tell him only when the marriage takes place, he loses half the pleasure, which God knows he has little enough of; and ten to one but you have told him of some love-making with a bad ending.

A sick person also intensely enjoys hearing of any material good, any positive or practical success of the right. He has so much of books and fiction, of principles, and precepts, and theories; do, instead of advising him with advice he has heard at least fifty times before, tell him of one benevolent act which has really succeeded practically, it is like a day's health to him.

You have no idea what the craving of sick, with undiminished power of thinking, but little power of doing, is to hear of good practical action, when they can no longer partake in it.

Do observe these things with the sick. Do remember how their life is to them disappointed and incomplete. You see them lying there with miserable disappointments, from which they can have no escape but death, and you can't remember to tell them of what would give them so much pleasure, or at least an hour's variety.

They don't want you to be lachrymose and whining with them, they like you to be fresh and active and interested, but they cannot bear absence of mind, and they are so tired of the advice and preaching they receive from everybody, no matter whom it is, they see.

There is no better society than babies and sick people for one another. Of course you must manage this so that neither shall suffer from it, which is perfectly possible. If you think the "air of the sick room" bad for the baby, why it is bad for the invalid too, and, therefore, you will of course correct it for both. It freshens up a sick person's whole mental atmosphere to see "the baby." And a very young child, if unspoiled, will generally adapt itself wonderfully to the ways of a sick person, it the time they spend together is not too long.

If you knew how unreasonably sick people

suffer from reasonable causes of distress, you would take more pains about all these things. An infant laid upon the sick bed will do the sick person, thus suffering, more good than all your logic. A piece of good news will do the same. Perhaps you are afraid of "disturbing" him. You say there is no comfort for his present cause of affliction. It is perfectly reasonable. The distinction is this, if he is obliged to act, do not "disturb" him with another subject of thought just yet; help him to do what he wants to do; but, if he has done this, or if nothing can be done, then "disturb" him by all means. You will relieve, more effectually, unreasonable suffering from reasonable causes by telling him "the news," showing him "the baby," or giving him something new to think of or to look at, than by all the logic in the world.

It has been very justly said that the sick are like children in this, that there is no proportion in events to them. Now it is your business, as their visitor, to restore this right proportion for them—to show them what the rest of the world is doing. How can they find it out otherwise? You will find them far more open to conviction than children in this. And you will find that their unreasonable intensity of suffering from unkindness, from want of sympathy, &c., will disappear with their freshened interest in the big world's events. But then you must be able to give them real interests, not gossip.

OBSERVATION OF THE NURSE.

There is no more silly or unwise question scarcely asked than this, "Is he better?" Ask it of the medical attendant, if you please. But of whom else, if you wish for a real answer to your question, would you ask? Certainly not of the casual visitor; certainly not of the nurse, while the nurse's observation is so little exercised as it is now. What you want are facts, not opinions—for who can have any opinion of any value as to whether the patient is better or worse, excepting the constant medical attendant, or the really observing nurse?

The most important practical lesson that can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe—how to observe—what symptoms indicate improvement—what the reverse—which are of importance—which are of none—which are the evidence of neglect—and of what kind of neglect.

All this is what ought to make part, and an essential part, of the training of every nurse. At present how few there are, either professional or unprofessional, who really know at all whether any sick person they may be with is better or worse.

The vagueness and looseness of the information one receives in answer to that much abused question, "Is he better?" would be ludicrous, if it were not painful. The only sensible answer (in the present state of knowledge about sickness) would be, "How can I know? I cannot tell how he was when I was not with him."

I can record but a very few specimens of the answers which I have heard made by friends and nurses, and accepted by physicians and surgeons at the very bedside of the patient, who could have contradicted every word, but did not—sometimes from amiability, often from shyness, oftener from languor!

"How often have the bowels acted, nurse?" "Once, sir." This generally means that the tennens has been emptied once, it having been used perhaps seven or eight times.

"Do you think the patient is much weaker than he was six weeks ago?" "Oh no, sir; you know it is very long since he has been up and dressed, and he can get across the room now." This means that the nurse has not observed that whereas six weeks ago he sat up and occupied himself in bed, he now lies still doing nothing; that, although he can "get across the room," he cannot stand for five seconds.

Another patient who is eating well, recovering steadily, although slowly, from fever, but cannot walk or stand, is represented to the doctor as making no progress at all.

Questions, too, as asked now (but too generally) of or about patients, would obtain no information at all about them, even if the person asked of had every information to give. The question is generally a leading question; and it is singular that people never think what must be the answer to this question before they ask it: for instance, "Has he had a good night?" Now, one patient will think he has a bad night if he has not slept ten hours without waking. Another does not think he has a bad night if he had intervals of dozing occasionally. The same answer has actually been given as regarded two patients—one who had been entirely sleepless for five times twenty-four hours, and died of it, and another who had not slept the sleep of a regular night, without waking. Why cannot the question be asked, "How many hours' sleep has ——— had?" and at what hours of the night?"

"I have never closed my eyes all night," an answer as frequently made when the speaker has had several hours' sleep as when he has had none, would then be less often said. Lies, intentional and unintentional, are much seldom told in answer to precise than to leading questions. Another frequent error is to inquire whether one cause remains, and not whether the effect which may be produced by a great many different causes, not inquired after, remains. As when it is asked, whether there was noise in the street last night; and if there were not, the patient is reported, without more ado, to have had a good night. Patients are completely taken aback by these kinds of leading questions, and give only the exact amount of information asked for, even when they know it to be completely misleading. The shyness of patients is seldom allowed for.

How few there are who, by five or six pointed questions, can elicit the whole case, and get accurately to know and to be able to report where the patient is.

I know a very clever physician, of large dispensary and hospital practice, who invariably began his examination of each patient with "Put your finger where you be bad." That man would never waste his time with collecting

* This is important, because on this depends what the remedy will be. If a patient sleeps two or three hours early in the night, and then does not sleep again at all, ten to one it is not a narcotic he wants, but food or stimulus, or perhaps only warmth. If, on the other hand, he is restless and awake all night, and is drowsy in the morning, he probably wants sedatives, either quiet, coolness, or medicine, a lighter diet, or all four. Now the doctor should be told this, or how can he judge what to give?

inaccurate information from nurse or patient. Leading questions always collect inaccurate information.

At a recent celebrated trial, the following leading question was put successively to nine distinguished medical men: "Can you attribute these symptoms to anything else but poison?" And out of the nine, eight answered "No!" without any qualification whatever. It appeared, upon cross-examination:—1. That none of them had ever seen a case of the kind of poisoning supposed. 2. That none of them had ever seen a case of the kind of disease to which the death, if not to poison, was attributable. 3. That none of them were even aware of the main fact of the disease and condition to which the disease was attributable.

Surely nothing stronger can be adduced to prove what new leading questions are of, and what they lead to.

I had rather not say how many instances I have known, where, owing to this system of leading questions, the patient has died, and the attendants have been actually unaware of the principal feature of the case.

It is useless to go through all the particulars, besides sleep, in which people have a peculiar talent for gathering inaccurate information. As to food, for instance I often think that most common question, *How is your appetite?* can only be put because the questioner believes the questioner has really nothing the matter with him, which is very often the case. But where there is, the remark holds good which has been made about sleep. The same answer will often be made as regards a patient who cannot take two ounces of solid food per diem, and a patient who does not enjoy five meals a day as much as usual.

Again, the question, *How is your digestion?* is often put when *How is your digestion?* is the question meant. No doubt the two things depend on one another. But they are quite different. Many a patient can eat, if you can only "tempt his appetite." The fault lies in your not having got him the thing that he fancies. But many another patient does not care between grapes and turnips—everything is equally distasteful to him. He would try to eat anything which would do him good; but everything "makes him worse." The fault here generally lies in the cooking. It is not his "appetite" which requires "tempting," it is his digestion which requires sparing. And good sick cookery will save the digestion half its work.

There may be four different causes, any one of which will produce the same result, viz, the patient slowly starving to death from want of nutrition:

1. Defect in cooking;
2. Defect in choice of diet;
3. Defect in choice of hours for taking diet;
4. Defect of appetite in patient;

Yet all these are generally comprehended in the one sweeping assertion that the patient has "no appetite."

Surely many lives might be saved by drawing a closer distinction; for the remedies are as diverse as the causes. The remedy for the first is to cook better; for the second, to choose other articles of diet; for the third, to watch for the hours when the patient is in want of food; for the fourth, to show him what he likes, and some-

times unexpectedly. But no one of these remedies will do for any other of the defects not corresponding with it.

I cannot too often repeat that patients are generally either too laund to observe these things, or too shy to speak about them; nor is it well that they should be made to observe them, it fixes their attention upon themselves.

Again, I say, what is the nurse or friend there for except to take note of these things, instead of the patient doing so?

It is commonly supposed that the nurse is there to spare the patient from making physical exertion for himself—I would rather say that she ought to be there to spare him from taking thought for himself. And I am quite sure, that if the patient were spared all thought for himself, and not spared all physical exertion, he would be infinitely the gainer. The reverse is generally the case in the private house. In the hospital it is the relief from all anxiety, afforded by the rules of a well-regulated institution, which has often such a beneficial effect upon the patient.

Again, the question is sometimes put, "Is there diarrhoea?" And the answer will be the same, whether it is just merging into cholera, whether it is a trifling degree brought on by some trifling indiscretion, which will cease the moment the cause is removed, or whether there is no diarrhoea at all, but simply relaxed bowels.

It is useless to multiply instances of this kind. As long as observation is so little cultivated as it is now, I do believe that it is better for the physician not to see the friends of the patient at all. They will often mislead him thus not. And so often by making the patient out worse as better than he really is.

In the case of infants, everything must depend upon the accurate observation of the nurse or mother who has to report. And how seldom is this condition of accuracy fulfilled.

A celebrated man, though celebrated only for foolish things, has told us that one of his main objects in the education of his son, was to give him a really habit of accurate observation, a certainty of perception, and that for this purpose one of his means was a month's course as follows:—He took the boy rapidly past a toy-shop; the father and son then described to each other as many of the objects as they could, which they had seen in passing the windows, noting them down with pencil and paper, and returning afterwards to verify their own accuracy. The boy always succeeded best, e. g., if the father described 30 objects, the boy did 40, and scarcely ever made a mistake.

I have often thought how wise a piece of education this would be for much higher objects; and in our calling of nurses the thing itself is essential. For it may safely be said, not that the habit of ready and correct observation will by itself make us useful nurses, but that without it we shall be useless with all our devotion.

I have known a nurse in charge of a set of wards, who not only carried in her head all the little varieties in the diets which each patient was allowed to fix for himself, but also exactly what each patient had taken during each day. I have known another nurse in charge of one single patient, who took away his meals day after day all but untouched, and never knew it.

If you find it helps you to note down such things on a bit of paper, in pencil, by all means do so. I think it more often lames than strengthens the memory and observation. But if you cannot get the habit of observation one way or the other, you had better give up being a nurse, for it is not your calling, however kind and anxious you may be.

Surely you can learn at least to judge with the eye how much an ounce of solid food is, how much an ounce of liquid. You will find this helps your observation and memory very much, you will then say to yourself, "A. took about an ounce of his meat to-day;" "B. took three times in 24 hours about $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beef tea;" instead of saying "B. has taken nothing all day;" or "I gave A. his dinner as usual."

I have known several of our real old-fashioned hospital "sisters," who could, as accurately as a measuring glass, measure out all their patients' wine and medicine by the eye, and never be wrong. I do not recommend this, one must be very sure of one's self to do it. I only mention it, because if a nurse can by practice measure medicine by the eye, surely she is no nurse who cannot measure by the eye about how much food (in ounce) her patient has taken. In hospitals those who cut up the diets give with sufficient accuracy, to his patient, his 12 ounces or his 6 ounces of meat without weighing. Yet a nurse will often have patients loathing all food and incapable of any will to get well, who just tumble over the contents of the plate or dip the spoon in the cup to deceive the nurse, and she will take it away without ever seeing that there is just the same quantity of food as when she brought it, and she will tell the doctor, too, that the patient has eaten all his diets as usual, when all she ought to have meant is that she has taken away his diets as usual.

Now what kind of a nurse is this?

I would call attention to something else, in which nurses frequently fail in observation. There is a well marked distinction between the excitable and what I will call the accumulative temperament in patients. One will blaze up at once, under any shock or anxiety, and sleep very comfortably after it; another will seem quite calm and even torpid, under the same shock, and people say, "He hardly felt it at all," yet you will find him some time after slowly sinking. The same remark applies to the action of narcotics, of aperients, which, in the one, take effect directly, in the other not perhaps for twenty-four hours. A journey, a visit, an unwonted exertion, will affect the one immediately, but he recovers after it; the other bears it very well at the time, apparently, and dies or is prostrated for life by it. People often say how difficult the excitable temperament is to manage. I say how difficult is the accumulative temperament. With the first you have an out-break which you could anticipate, and it is all over. With the second you never know where you are - you never know when the consequences are over. And it requires your closest observation to know what are the consequences of what - for the consequent by no means follows immediately upon the antecedent - and coarse observation is utterly at fault. - Miss Nightingale.

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A most delicious article of food for children and invalids of all ages. For sale by Grocers and Druggists everywhere.

WHOLESALE DEPOT, 166 FULTON STREET.**WM. DURYEA, General Agent.**

NORTH AMERICAN Fire Insurance Company,

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL { May 1, }
AND SURPLUS, { 1864, } \$675,014 13.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned.....	\$173,160 00
Stocks, Bonds and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	365,960 00
Cash in Bank and Office	21,232 15
Loans on demand with collaterals.....	71,400 00
Premiums due and outstanding	3,820 81
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission [business of April received]	13,491 57
Interest accrued on Securities	21,684 60
Other Property of Company.....	1,2 5 00
	<hr/>
	\$675,014 13
Losses unadjusted	\$10,500 00

Insures Property against Loss or Damage by Fire at usual rates, and returns three-fourths of the net Profits, each year, to the Assured.

Policies Issued and Losses paid at the Office of the Company, or at its various Agencies in the principal cities in the United States.

JAMES W. OTIS, President.

R. W. BLEECKER, Secretary.

R. F. MASON, Sup't Agencies.

OFFICE OF THE
Columbian (Marine) Insurance
COMPANY,
 CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - \$1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	\$3 140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3 252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, **RETURNS IN CASH**, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the **NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY**, as follows:

1st. Upon all **VOYAGE** Risks upon **CARGO**, a return of **TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.**

2d. Upon **VOYAGE** Risks upon **FREIGHT**, a return of **TWENTY PER CENT.**

3d. Upon **TIME** Risks upon **FREIGHT**, and upon **VOYAGE** and **TIME** Risks upon **HULLS**, a return of **TEN PER CENT.**

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, JULY 15, 1864.

No. 18.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 11,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 323 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. SPENCE, 65 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

TWO MONTHS' WORK IN VIRGINIA.

Statement of Disbursements during the months of May and June, 1864, for the National Forces in Virginia.

	MAY.	JUNE.	TOTAL.
SUPPLIES—Amount paid for Purchases.....	\$120,105.60	\$155,702.05	\$275,807.65
DISTRIBUTION—Expenses of including subsistence transportation and compensation of over two hundred lieut Agents, forage for horses, materials necessary for the work of Agents.....	17,150.17	7,042.20	24,192.37
HORSES, WAGGONS AND HARNESSES—Amount paid for ...	31,755.43	1,352.98	33,098.41
TRANS-PORTATION—Chartering of vessels, viz: 9 steamers, 2 barges, 1 schooner, for various periods, coal, loading, &c.....	15,135.21	22,304.65	37,339.76
Estimated value of additional supplies contributed to the Commission, and issued to the Army in South-ern Virginia.....	194,144.41	258,351.76	452,396.19
	120,000.00	45,498.37	175,498.37

The entire expenditure in money for the whole work of the Commission, East, South and West, was

In May.....	\$262,806.77
In June.....	232,275.97
Total for two months.....	\$515,174.64

It should be considered that during a campaign, characterized by the frequency of its change of base, the relative cost of transportation is much increased. The single item of charter of vessels, from the scarcity growing out of claims of Government service, necessarily becomes a very large one.

It may be noticed that the amount of supplies contributed to the Commission in kind, during June, was but about one-third the value of similar contributions in May. Hence the necessity of direct money expenditure from the Treasury.

Owing to the pressing call for anti-scorbutics, the Commission have recently issued very largely of vegetable food, as is shown by the following list of supplies forwarded during the month of June.

297,156 lbs. canned tomatoes.	16,218 galls. sour kraut.
(over 103 tons.)	100 bbls. fresh onions.
15,960 lbs. canned fruit.	79 bbls. potatoes.
874 cans " jellies.	242 bbls. dried apples.
36,273 galls. pickled cucum- bers, (about 1,200 bbls.)	32 " other dried fruit.
13,354 galls. pickled onions.	301 boxes lemons.
4,719 " " tomatoes.	2,400 boxes portable lemon- ade.
1,106 " curried cabbage.	35 boxes oranges.

This includes the lot distributed on the 3d inst., which reached the men in the trenches in time for their Independence day dinner. During the last fortnight prices of vegetables have been proportionately much larger than hitherto. Three steamers and a barge have already sailed for the army with an aggregate cargo of over 5,000 barrels of vegetables and delicacies.

Every precaution has been taken by the Commission to insure an accurate, comprehensive, and impartial distribution of their precious contributions to the dietary of the army.

Gen. Grant has always highly approved the work, and has given it his aid, ordering additional transportation to enable the Commission trains to go at once to the front, and as near the trenches as possible. The plan of distribution has been to send the wagons either to corps or division commanders, in charge of an adequate number of the relief agents of the Commission. The commander of each respective corps division having detailed an officer from his staff to attend, sends the wagons to the rear of their trenches, and their contents are given to the men, either in the works, or as they return after dark to the camps of the Reserves.

The enthusiasm is always great when it becomes known that such abundant supplies of acid fruits and vegetables are to be distributed in the trenches.

It is difficult for the inexperienced reader to form a sufficiently profound appreciation

of the value of this anti-scorbutic food. It should be remembered that the Army of the Potomac, having passed through a campaign of the severest character, having depended mainly for food upon the fighting ration of pork, hard bread and coffee, arrived before Petersburg in a state of great exhaustion. Every consideration of humanity, patriotism and military economy made it the duty of the Commission to give it at once such aid and comfort as their experience and means rendered possible. They knew that the sickness and mortality rates would inevitably increase unless the exhausted bodies of the soldiers could be brought rapidly under the influence of well-selected anti-scorbutics. They, therefore, sent to the army a sufficient quantity and variety to give every man a daily ration of fresh food for at least ten days. The above lists will show the principal articles distributed; the quantities stated do not, however, show the entire issues to date, as all the returns are not yet in. A complete report of this work will be presented in due time to the public, whose almoner the Commission is.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION FROM A FRENCH POINT OF VIEW.

The *Revue des Deux Mondes*, for May 1, has a long and eloquent article on the Sanitary Commission and its work; and though most of its facts are, of course, familiar enough to our readers, the comments of an intelligent French critic upon an organization, which, to anybody with the ordinary French ideas of the relations of the people and the Government, must seem one of the strangest facts of the day—must contain a vast deal that is in the highest degree interesting.

Speaking of that intense individualism to which the Commission owed its origin—the writer says:

"The great problem which political science has to solve in our age, is evidently to reconcile the personal initiative of the citizen with the prerogatives of the entire social body, represented by its Government. * * Nothing but the long habit of liberty, in all countries in the world, will ever suffice to trace accurately the ever-shifting line which separates the domain of the

citizen from that of the State. It is then very important to study, from this point of view, the political customs of those societies whose individual members are distinguished in a high degree by the spirit of individual initiative. The American republic affords above all others the most remarkable examples of the right reserved by individuals of forming coalitions or independent associations, either for the purpose of giving their support to the Government, of turning it aside from a false path, or even of opposing it. A single man rises up, and sets on foot an agitation in favor of a reform or of an amelioration; if his projects are received by a certain number of citizens, they make common cause with him, furnish him with platforms, pulpits, newspapers, and never cease to struggle until either they have accomplished their object, or a sudden change in public opinion has modified their views."

"One of the most remarkable institutions produced by the spontaneous action of the American people, since the commencement of the civil war, is the Sanitary Commission, which, without waiting for any appeal from the Government, was voluntarily established for the purpose of seeing after the health and material interests of the soldiers, the cure of the wounded, and the support of the invalids. Citizens, women, children, without any other warrant than their patriotism, exercise surveillance over the conduct of the State, in that very one of its functions which it usually most jealously guards against intrusion—the organization of the national forces. Without fearing the relaxation of military discipline, they have their civilian agents, their doctors, their inspectors in the midst of all the armies. They plant their volunteer organization in the camp in which the inflexible will of a general, sending his soldiers to victory or death, reigns as the supreme law. One sees, then, that the work of the Sanitary Commission is interesting, not simply as a work of patriotic charity; it deserves also to be studied with attention as one of the most curious results of individual initiative."

Of the share of the women in originating and carrying on the work of the Commission—the writer says:

"The honor of having given the first impulse to this national work, belongs to the American women. The war had hardly begun when ladies' societies were formed in all parts of the Union, to aid the soldiers who responded to the President's call. Confused, naturally enough, by the rising tumult of the revolution, the female relatives and friends of the volunteers did not very well know how to act. They work somewhat at random, without any systematic combination of their efforts. * * *

In a few days after the fall of Fort Sumter, before the civil war, which was destined to prove so sanguinary, had cost a single life, the American women were on foot in all parts of the Union, proving the sincerity of their patriotism by the abundance of their gifts. Most of the politicians at the North affected to see in the rebellion, but an unimportant rising. Mr. Seward himself looked for its repression in ninety days; but the women, as if warned by a prophetic instinct, were preparing patiently for long years of struggle, of suffering, and of anguish.

* * * The accredited agents of the Commission with each corps are bound to make no distinction between soldiers from Massachusetts and those from Illinois; between Native Americans and emigrants from the old world, between whites and blacks; on the battle-field they have to refuse to see in the wounded they pick up and nurse, either unionists or rebels. Of all the nurses provided by the Commission, those who best understand the mission of universal charity, on which they are sent, the most devoted, the most conscientious, the most beloved by the sick, are certainly the women. Many of them, following the example given during the Crimean war by the excellent Miss Nightingale, have bid adieu to all attractions of happy homes, and of refined and elegant life, to consecrate themselves to the service of military hospitals and ambulances. They prove by their acts that it is not only anxiety about their own salvation that can enable one to breathe without repugnance the tainted atmosphere of an hospital. An ardent love of country, and a profound sentiment of the fraternity of the human race, are all that are needed to make their devotion

easy; modest heroines of tenderness and of grace, they fulfill their mission with a joyous enthusiasm and simplicity which charms all hearts. When the war shall have ceased to desolate the United States, thousands of soldiers of the two hostile armies, will remember with emotion the care these women have bestowed on them."

The article then enters at some length into an account of the organization of the Commission, and its manner of working, and gives a number of details of the results it has accomplished, and then makes the following remarks upon its peculiarly American character:

"One sees that the Sanitary Commission is a peculiarly American institution. There is no doubt the chiefs of the various European armies would not tolerate at any price the formation of a free society of hospitaliers, charging itself with the duty, not only of taking care of the sick and wounded, but of making army censuses; obtaining transportation for the soldiers; pursuing deserters;* examining the cause of punishments inflicted, and defending the interests of the troops, not only against speculators, but even in case of need, against the Government itself. In England, not less than on the Continent, any association of individuals putting forward any such pretensions, would certainly be accused of madness or wickedness. So true it is, that American manners owe their peculiarities rather to the long enjoyment of free institutions than to the Anglo Saxon origin of the people. After that terrible Crimean winter, during which the English troops lost one-half of their effective force, the British Government decided, it is true, to appoint a Sanitary Commission, in order to save the remains of its army, which threatened to melt away entirely; but that Commission had to confine itself to the reorganization of the medical department, and the recommendation of hygienic precautions. The European work which most resembles that of the American patriots, is that of the international association of nurses, established at Geneva, by M. Henri Dunant. Under certain aspects, the enter-

prise set on foot by this noble-hearted man is, perhaps, greater and more humane than that of the American Sanitary Commission, for it rises above the narrow considerations of local patriotism, and hoists the flag of universal charity over all armies engaged in mutual slaughter; but does not this International Association of Relief, by the very extent of the plan which it traces out for itself, condemn itself to be misunderstood? It has had official encouragements, approvals, more or less vague, from various crowned heads, in abundance, but unfortunately it has not yet received the all-powerful support of popular enthusiasm."

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, June, 1864.

Two men are before me. One of a nervous, irritable temperament, with a slight wound. His wife and family will be troubled, his life is in danger, he must go home, he must have somebody to wait on him, he is fretful. It is his first hospital experience; his first sickness from home. He will fall into line in a day or two, and be more cheerful. The example of brave men about him will arouse his better nature, and he will overcome his irritation.

Another is a veteran. Has seen battles, fought in them, been in hospitals before. He has both legs amputated above the knees. Look at him. He is sitting up in his blanket, with a basin of water at his side and a sponge in each hand, pressing the water in little drops from the sponge on his stumps, to soften the dressings and have them ready for the surgeon to remove. He turns upon his axis from side to side, wets his sponges, laughs at his stumps, calls them "bully," and only wishes that he had two good wooden ones, that he might be "on to Richmond."

A YOUNG IRISH SOLDIER FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

Says one of the Relief Agents: "As I sat in my room after the labors at the hospital, there was a modest rap at the door. I opened, and an Irish boy leaned against the post supporting one arm with the opposite hand. His only clothing, pants and shirt, were dusty and worn. He had neither hat nor shoes, and had walked eleven miles from the field. The sweat of battle was still on his brow; a ball from the foe had penetrated his shoulder, and the pain of the wound was severe. In a tremulous voice he said, "Please, sir, can I get something to eat?" Hungry and his rations gone, he was taken in and fed. His wardrobe tattered and lost, he was clothed and comforted. Wounded and suffering, he was

* This is of course an error of the writer; the Commission charges itself with no such duty.—[Eds.]

bound up and restored. The good that was done to the boy was something; the good to me went as deep as my heart. The good in this work is imparted, but there is more of it received. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

A LAD FROM MAINE.

He was just fifteen. Two of his brothers had fallen in battle; one was still left, unless he too had fallen recently. This boy was wounded in the hand, the left ear, and through the left thigh; the ball had broken the bone and cut the femoral artery. The boy was a lovely one, of delicate frame, fair hair, sweet soft voice, and innocent expression. One evening he had a severe hemorrhage, and the surgeon determined to amputate. He beckoned to me, and said, "They are going to take off my leg; stand by me all the time; pray for me too." Chloroform was administered, and the surgeons gathered around. Upon renewing the examination, it was determined not to amputate, as there was no chance for his life. The influence of the chloroform passed away, and his first inquiry was, "Is it off yet?" He found it was not, learned the reason, and looking solemnly in my face and raising his hand, said: "Will you pray for me, pray for me, and when I am dead do not bury me in a blanket. Put me in a box, as my mother would do. Let it be done right." In a few hours he was sleeping in the arms of death. His resting-place is with his comrades. His country has had the baptism of his young blood, and to the cause of human freedom he has sacrificed his life.

THE UNKNOWN.

While upon the wharf recently at Fortress Monroe, a gentleman came to me and asked if it would be possible for him to examine the records of the medical department, that he might possibly find the name of a relative, who had not been heard of since the peninsular campaign of 1862. He was directed to the proper office, searched and found the name of the young man as having been in a hospital, &c., but the time and place of his burial he could not discover. In the wanderings and searchings of this gentleman among the graves of soldiers in different places on the peninsular he was unable to find any trace of the resting place of his relative. He saw, however, here and there written on the little head-boards "unknown;" and conscious that he for whom he sought was among them, he gave up the search as hopeless. Conversing together on the sad feelings which have beclouded many a home since the war began, and participating himself to some extent in the same afflictive dispensation, he wrote the following lines, and presented them to me.

THE UNKNOWN.

Unknown! and this sad word records the fame
Of one whose breast received the felon's steel
On his unconscious form; no mark, no name,
Told of the dear one's home, who still shall kneel
And supplicate for him a father's throne;
He died in stranger arms—he died unknown.

Unknown to her his death, and she will try
With breaking heart to solve the mystery.
"Absent! thou leave," will be the curt reply,
And darker still the inference may be
All near his name. One I am proud to own
Has this record, for he too died unknown.

Unknown defenders of our country's life
We bare our heads, and to their head the knee;
Our faith looks up, beyond this fearful strife,
Into the realms of blest eternity,
Where through the merits of our Christ alone
Blood-washed are ye, who here have died unknown.

KINDNESS.

While examining a fearful wound in a young soldier in one of the hospitals the other day, I was astonished at the rapid progress towards recovery, as well as at the patient's unusually vigorous condition, considering the nature of the wound—a compound fracture in the upper third of the right thigh. The following statement which he gave me accounts for this man's good fortune: He was wounded while in the skirmish line the 31 of June, at Coal Harbor, Va. His comrades had him carefully conveyed to the rear, and as soon as permission could be obtained after the battle, eight of those comrades undertook the task of transporting him on a litter, borne upon their own shoulders, from Coal Harbor to Whitehouse, 22 miles by the road they traveled. Carefully they kept step as they went onward to the new base for the transports, and when they reached the hospital boat in the Pamunkey River the field litter and its precious burden were deposited without having been jostled or the wounded parts injured. The physicians promised that the noble object of this tender care should be transported to the hospital wharf at Washington, and from thence to some general hospital, without being disturbed from the carefully prepared bed upon which he had been brought from the battle field. The pledge has been fulfilled, and if those affectionate comrades live to reach Jefferson County, N. Y., again, there is reason to believe they will find there the noble man who was borne upon their shoulders from Coal Harbor to the White House.

H.

A SOLDIER'S SUBSCRIPTION.

One little incident should be mentioned here which happened recently. A soldier handed us \$2 to be presented as a donation to the Commission. Reason, he had been taken good care of in a hospital by one or more of the agents there. Furthermore, he gives \$2 every month, and intends to do so. The suffering soldier will ever be the best witness as to who helps him most.

The thin shirts and drawers issued in such large quantities for a few days past, are just the thing. It is really refreshing to see the wounded men in the tents and all those who are able to hobble about, sporting thin white clothing, in place of those cruel, hot, dirty flannels.

ANTI-SCORBUTICS.

Our readers may be pleased to see the following extracts from the Commission's Journal, kept at City Point, together with a few testimonial letters, indicating what we are doing in supplying the army with anti scorbutic food.

On the 6th Dr. Douglas sent from City Point to the front 1,150 bbls. of vegetables, and 8,000 heads of cabbages, not less than one-half of which constituted the Commission's part of the cargo of the "Belvidere," sent from New York by the Union Fund Committee, under the direction of G. W. Blunt and Captain Charles G. Marshall.

As we write (July 8th) three Commission steamers are loading with vegetables, and will leave to-morrow.

CITY POINT, VA., June 28, 1864.

Capt. Harris' teams are loading up to-day for the Point, with large quantities of saur kraut, curry, pickles and dried apples; there has been, perhaps, one loaded with an assortment. There are 16 or 17 wagons.

The troops in the vicinity and the army in front too are beginning to smell out our stores of anti-scorbutics. Ten barrels of saur kraut were issued at the end of our gang plank yesterday, in small quantities. It seems to please the soldiers like a thanksgiving dinner. Hard tack and salt pork and beef will not satisfy the stomach for month after month, much less palate; these articles are here at the right time.

June 29, 1864.

Two wagon loads of fresh vegetables went to the front this P. M.; cabbages, radishes, beans, peas, &c., to the 9th Army Corps, 20 barrels.

The Commission is now doing splendid work in the front; it may now pour in a stream of its supplies into the very trenches in front. Those who come in say that fresh and pickled vegetables are what are most needed among our famishing men.

7 o'clock, P. M. Wagons are still load-

ing up with saur kraut, fresh vegetables, ale, &c. The bees in the hive are hard at work, but we need more.

July 1st, 1864.

The following order was issued by Major Gen. Hancock, a copy of which was received here to-day:

HEAD-QUARTERS, 2d ARMY CORPS, }
Special Orders, No. 170. July 1, 1864. }

EXTRACT.

The Sanitary Commission having turned over for the use of the troops of this Corps 140 boxes tomatoes, (about 4,000 lbs.,) 19 boxes lemons, 5 bbls. pickled onions, 320 lbs. chewing tobacco, they will be distributed, under the direction of the Chief Commissary of the Corps, only to the men of the different divisions and artillery now occupying the line of works.

By order of Major-Gen. Hancock,

W. P. WILSON,
A. Asst Adj't Gen'l.

Dr. Smith delivered the above goods directly to Gen. Hancock, who expressed himself as greatly gratified, and immediately issued the above order.

July 2, 1864.

Messrs. Judd and Smith returned this A. M. Mr. Judd reports that he delivered his five loads in person, taking regiment by regiment. He went along the trenches of the 18th Corps, settled his business with each commander of a regiment, met with a cordial reception by the rank and file, and had the satisfaction to know that his goods were in a way to reach 19,000 men.

His mission was entirely successful. He was some of the time under fire, and much exposed to danger.

Early in the evening an examination was made to see how much of the anti-scorbutic stock could be made out for the army. It was found that there was at hand, provided transportation could be obtained,

400 barrels pickles,
125 " pickled onions,
98 " fresh onions,
60 " potatoes,
75 " dried apples.

758 total barrels,
and 90 boxes lemons.

Dr. Douglas and Dr. McDonald have just returned from a visit to Gen. Grant. The General will furnish transportation to-morrow morning, and proceed with this stock immediately to the trenches. It will take, if carried 6 bbls. to a load, with lemons scattered through, about 125 teams.

July 3, 1864.

Mr. De Long reports that five Sanitary Commission wagons were loaded.

72 boxes tomatoes,
24 " chicken,
228 lbs. chocolate,
72 cans peaches,
156 " pears,
12 boxes sherry,
6 " milk,
1 sheep and 100 lbs. ice.

Also, 1 wagon for 9th Army Corps, and five for the different Relief Agents, making a total of eleven wagons.

One ought to see the boys who came up from the front out of the trenches "pitch into" the acids, such as saur kraut and pickles. It reminds one of Dr. Kane's party in the arctic regions, who having been a long time without food, "gobbled up" raw seal and walrus, even while the life-currents were yet flowing. The boys are *frantic* for acids.

The following are the stores ordered by Lieut.-Col. R. M. Morgan, Chief Commissary:

400 barrels pickled cucumbers,
122 " pickled onions,
94 " fresh onions,
54 " potatoes,
73 " dried apples,
743 barrels.
89 boxes lemons.

The above are equivalent to about 120 wagon loads. Eighteen of the Commission men will go with them to the trenches this P. M., and be assigned in squads to the respective corps to aid the Government in the distribution, and to act as a corps of observation.

CITY POINT, July 3, 1864.

MR. KNAPP:

DEAR SIR—We sent to the army day before yesterday about twenty-five tons of supplies. Among them were 11,000 lbs. of tomatoes and 800 lbs. of tobacco.

We send to-day 800 bbls. and boxes of vegetables, pickled and fresh. They are distributed through the Commissaries of Divisions, as being the most expeditious and sure way of doing the work. General Grant finds us the transportation. The articles are now being loaded on the cars. They will be delivered at the farther end of the railway to Division Commissaries. We expect that they will be in the possession of the soldiers to-morrow morning. Every corps in all its appointments will be reached speedily in this army.

Yours, truly,
(Signed,) J. H. DOUGLAS.

Extract from a letter dated near Petersburg, June 29, 1864:

DR. DOUGLAS:

DEAR SIR.—Twelve barrels each of kraut and dried apples were turned over to me last evening for the 9th Army Corps. I saw Generals Burnside and Parks, also the chief of the Commissary Department, Col. Coles, who will with myself see that it is sent to the trenches this day.

General Burnside called on me night before last. I was not at home, but I was told that he expressed himself as more than satisfied with the labors of the Commission in ameliorating the condition of his command.

Other Generals have told me within two days that the donations of apples, pickles, ale, &c., to the men in the trenches, *have made a perceptible improvement in their condition*; and General Hurteau, of the 3d Division, pointed to a man who he believed had been saved to the service by the timely aid.

Now with this evidence and kindly feeling manifested, I am stimulated to exertion for those in front, to prevent sickness by some addition to the present "rations," in the form of acid fruits and pickles, and very, very much will have been done. Dried apples, pickled onions, canned tomatoes and kraut, in the order named, I believe the best.

Most respectfully yours,
N. C. STEVENS.

June 30, 1864.

DR. DOUGLAS:

DEAR SIR—I went to headquarters last

evening, and the officers declined using any of the vegetables, saying that the men in the trenches needed them more than they do, and that they did not have the resources they had. They say, take care of the men in the trenches. Indications of scurvy are beginning to be developed, which will be counteracted by prompt aid from anti-scorbutics. In conference with three of the Medical Directors of the Corps, it was thought that canned tomatoes were the most convenient form of vegetables that could be used, as they need no cooking, and one box of 2 lbs. will give a mess to six persons. Next pickles, kumt and vegetables. Vegetables are so perishable, that if not used while fresh, they are not worth much. Send anything your wisdom may suggest. I assure you it will be most heartily appreciated by officers and men.

Yours, in haste,

N. C. STEVENS.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Smith:

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMY CORPS,
IN THE FIELD, NEAR PETERSBURG,
July 1, 1864. }

To Dr. J. H. DOUGLAS,

As orate Sec'y Sanitary Com'n:

DEAR SIR—The supplies kindly forwarded by you from the Sanitary Commission have been received at these headquarters, and will at once be distributed as requested.

The Major-General commanding the Corps desires me to express to you his appreciation of this donation to his command by the Commission you represent, and to say that there perhaps has never been a time when they could be of greater benefit, or that their want has been more felt by the troops.

He also desires me to express to you, and through you to the Commission you represent, his thanks for the interest they have ever shown for the welfare and well-being of the troops in the field, and his appreciation of the work in which they are engaged and the labors they have performed.

I am, dear sir, yours very truly, &c.,

WM. RUSSELL, JR.,
Major and Asst Adj't Gen'l.

HEADQUARTERS, 3D DIV., 6TH A. C.,
June 27, 1864. }

SURGEON R. BARR,

Surgeon in Chief 3d Div., 6th Corps:

SIR—Please present my best thanks to

Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector Sanitary Commission, and Mr. Blazier, agent for the 6th Corps, for the very acceptable and liberal donation of two wagon loads of anti-scorbutics to this Division; and while I am grateful on the score of health, the men feel this tangible proof of the benefits of the Commission.

Very respectfully,

JAMES B. RICKETTS,
Brigadier General.

HOSPITAL, 3D DIV., 6TH CORPS,
June 27, 1864. }

MR. BLAZIER, Agent U. S. S. C.:

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the Sanitary Stores furnished recently for the use of the men of this Division. It is the opinion of the Commanding General Ricketts, that great good is done by this one issue of vegetables to the troops under his command. I feel satisfied myself that a judicious and timely supply of such articles will go far to restore that healthy condition of system which can only be maintained by such means. If such articles as we have received can be supplied again, while the troops remain quiet, I will see they are brought forward and promptly distributed.

Let me return you my sincere thanks for the great good done, and to say nothing has ever been more welcome to the men, for which they feel truly thankful.

R. BARR,
Surgeon in Chief, 3d Div., 6th Corps.

HEADQUARTERS, RICKETTS'S DIV., 2D CORPS,
July 4, 1864. }

Dr. DOUGLAS,

U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—It affords me pleasure to acknowledge the extensive benefit derived to the sick and wounded of the 3d Division, 2d Corps, since crossing the James River. Whilst the Medical Department of the army has furnished us promptly and in abundance all needful surgical and medical supplies, with many extras, in fact to the full amount of transportation allowed to our department, the timely addition of such supplies as we have received from the Sanitary Commission, into which all local, "State Relief," or other divided effort should be merged, has added vastly to the comfort and welfare of the soldiers who

have passed from the front through the hospitals to the rear. That a whole people should organize themselves into a grand voluntary benevolent society, as our people have done through the Sanitary Commission, is no less a wonder to the world than the other events of transpired history.

From my own observation of the superior working of the Sanitary Commission, owing to its organization and superior facilities, I have only to regret that all the supplies of materials donated by the people for the army are not distributed through your agency.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

ALPHEUS EVERTS,

Surg. 20th Ind. V. F., and Chief of 3d Div., 2d Co. pa.

As we go to press we receive the following letters from Maj. Gen. Burnside and the Surgeons and Chaplains of 9th Army Corps; also, one from Dr. Douglas to Lieut. Gen. Grant, accompanying transmission of vegetables shipped on the "Belvidere," from New York.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 9TH A. C.,
CAMP BEFORE PETERSBURG, VA.,
Ju 9th 1864. }

SIR—It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge herewith the receipt of an issue of vegetables for my command, contributed by the Sanitary Commission.

My command is already indebted to you for several issues of vegetables and anti-scorbutics, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation of the value of the services which your Commission has so generously rendered.

I am sir, very respectfully,

A. E. BURNSIDE,

Major General.


FIELD HOSPITAL, 9TH ARMY CORPS,
NEAR PETERSBURG, VA.,
Ju 9th 1864 }


DR. J. H. DOUGLAS,

Associate Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission.

SIR—As Surgeons and Chaplains of the 9th Army Corps, it gives us great pleasure to acknowledge to you and to the many friends of the Sanitary Commission our great indebtedness to this Commission during the present campaign, for the supply of numerous articles so essential to the

comfort of the sick and wounded, demonstrating the exceeding value of this charity.

It affords us unqualified pleasure to bear testimony to the energy and faithfulness of your Agent, J. N. C. Stevens, in dispensing the  committed to his trust.

Especially  commend his judgment in the distribution of large quantities of anti-scorbutics to the men in the trenches, where the utility of such material is established in the prevention of sickness and the regulation of the system, rendering their recovery when wounded, more probable and speedy.

We trust that the Commission will continue its work in this direction, so favorably begun.

Most respectfully yours,

HORACE LUDINGTON, Surg. 100th Pa. Vols., in charge
1st Div., 9th A. C., Field Hospital.

JOHN W. SNOW, Surgeon 35th Mass. Vols.

J. O. MULLEN, Surgeon 14th N. Y. Artillery.

A. H. D. SHELL, Chaplain 57th Mass. Inf.

T. FLETCHER OAKES, Surg. 56th Mass., Ass. Surg.

Hosp. 1st Div., 9th A. C.

W. V. WHITE, Surgeon 57th Mass.

E. W. MORTON, Asst. Surg. 50th Reg. Me. Vols.

HORACE B. DEBRANT, Asst. Surg. 100th Reg. Penn. V.

WILLIAM A. WEBSTER, Surg. 9th Reg. N. H. Vol.

THEO. J. CHRIST, Surg. 45th Reg. Penn. Vol.

J. D. MILWAL, Surg. 31st Reg. Me. Vol.

SHERMAN COOPER, Surg. 6th Reg. N. H. Vol.

ROBERT T. PAINE, Jr., Surgeon 4th Reg. N. Y. M.

E. B. PIERCE, Asst. Surgeon 17th Reg. Vt. Vol.

H. M. G. MILLARD, Asst. Surg.

E. G. MESSENGER, Asst. Surgeon Penn. Vol.

CLARE C. HAPTON, Surgeon 32d Reg. Me. Vol.

H. S. B. SMITH, Asst. Surgeon 32d Reg. Me. Vol.

J. S. DOWE, Chaplain 6th Reg. N. H. Vet. Vol.

E. Z. DITFORD, Chaplain 11th Reg. N. H. Vol.

GEO. C. GRACEFORD, Chaplain 31st Reg. Me. Vol.

WM. A. STANT, Chaplain 58th Reg. Mass. Vol.

WM. B. D. BLACKWOOD, Surgeon 48th Reg. Penn. V.

L. B. BECKLEY, Chaplain 48th Reg. Penn. Vol.

L. W. BLISS, Surgeon 51st Reg. N. Y. Vol.

E. J. BONINE, Surgeon 2d Reg. Mich. Vet. Vol.

S. S. FRENCH, Surg. 2d Brig., 93 Div., 9th A. C.

WILLIAM B. FOX, Surg. 1st Brig., 3d Div., 9th A. C.

H. E. SMITH, Surgeon 27th Reg. Mich. Vol.

D. E. ROUNDY, Surgeon 37th Reg. Wis. Vol.

W. E. SHUTLOCK, Surgeon 51st Reg. Penn. Vet. V.

A. F. WHELAN, Surgeon 1st Reg. Mich. Sharp Sh.

CHARLES E. AMES, Surgeon 60th Reg. Ohio Vol.

HARRISON H. POWERS, Asst. Surg. 27th Reg. Mich. V.

H. L. BUTTERFIELD, Surgeon 38th Reg. Wis. Vol.

L. L. DOOLITTLE, Surgeon 24th Reg. N. Y. Cav.

JOSEPH JAMES, Chaplain 20th Reg. Mich. Vol.

S. S. HUSTING, Chaplain 27th Reg. Mich. Vol.

J. D. BEVINE, Surgeon 17th Reg. Mich. Vol.

GENERAL:

CITY POINT, VA., July 6, 1864.

I have just received from New York an invoice of fresh vegetables, consisting of

four hundred and twenty (420) barrels of potatoes, and three hundred and fifty-four (354) barrels of onions, which the Sanitary Commission desire to have distributed among the men in the armies operating before Richmond.

I have the honor of forwarding to you the accompanying letter from Mr. Blunt and Mr. Marshall, of New York, which has been placed in my hands, together with an invoice of vegetables sent on the steamer Belvidere, with those coming from the Sanitary Commission.

I respectfully request that these vegetables, in all 1153 barrels and 7000 heads of cabbages, may be distributed among the men in these armies.

The people at home send them to their brothers in the army, as an expression of their profound admiration and unbounded confidence.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,
J. H. DOUGLAS, M. D.

Gen. Grant ordered Col Morgan, of his staff, to take charge of the goods.

They were immediately loaded on the cars for the front. The condition of the vegetables seemed to be good.

PRE-PAY YOUR LETTERS.

We wish to call special attention to the necessity of *pre-paying the full amount of postage on letters intended for soldiers*. As will be seen by the accompanying communication from Mr. Kelly, and the circular he has issued, no letters can be allowed to go to officers or soldiers in the field, unless the entire postage is paid. No matter how valuable they may be, the postmaster has no discretionary power. The law in this respect is absolute. The entire postage must be paid before letters are suffered to leave the nearest post-office for the front. More than this, if a fraction only of the amount due on a letter is pre-paid, double the remaining fraction must be paid when the letter is taken from the office. If the wife of a soldier, thinking her letter to her husband in the field with Sherman, is of single weight, happens to drop it into the office with only a single three cent stamp upon it, and it should be a grain heavier than half an ounce, the letter must lie in the office at Chattanooga until, not three, but six cents additional are paid for postage due on it. It is not carried to the soldier in the regimental post-bag, and the opportunity given him of paying the amount

due on seeing it, but he must be notified of the letter by the postmaster at Chattanooga, must answer the notification with the requisite postage, and then be obliged to wait days, and perhaps weeks, in his various movements before the letter can overtake him. Meanwhile, what anxiety and disappointment may have been endured by the wife and family at home, because of this carelessness or ignorance!

There certainly can be no excuse for the failure of officers to pre-pay postage on letters to soldiers. It must come from gross carelessness and indifference. No one knows how many waiting and suffering men in hospitals and at home are longing for "descriptive rolls" and "discharge papers," which are lying with "postage due" marked upon them in some distant office. With so much good and so much evil necessarily dependent upon so small a matter as an additional postage stamp or two, those writing to soldiers cannot be too careful to *pre-pay the full amount of all their letters*.

The number of unpaid letters accumulated at Nashville and Chattanooga a short time ago was very large. The Sanitary Commission has recently undertaken to discharge this debt of so many soldiers to the Government, and it cannot be doubted that the amount of comfort thus promoted, to say nothing of the material gain in really valuable letters, will be proportionate to the hundreds of dollars expended.

LOUISVILLE, Ky, May 20, 1874.

DR. J. B. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—I am Special Agent of the Post Office Department for the Military Department, and have just returned from a tour of inspection to Chattanooga. I found at Nashville and Chattanooga quite an accumulation of mail for the soldiers under Gen. Sherman, *detained for unpaid postage*.

Under his oath of office, the postmaster has no discretion; he cannot permit unpaid mail to pass from his possession without the money due is first paid. Both offices sent out notices to the front, but for some cause only a small proportion of this mail ever reaches the soldier.

Under these circumstances I determined to appeal to that great charity with which you are connected, to add one other to its many claims upon the gratitude of the army and the people, by paying these unpaid letters.

It is needless for me to tell you what joy, what faith, what courage, you may thus be the means of imparting to many a war-worn soldier, by sending promptly forward the letter from wife or child, which, otherwise, would be left to await the tardy process of notification.

I am, very respectfully yours,
WM. L. KELLY.

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR.

Surgeons in charge of hospitals, and officers of posts and barracks, having occasion to address official communications to officers and others in the field, will be careful to *pre-pay in full* the postage when intended to be sent by mail.

Failure to do so subjects such matter to double charges, and causes its detention at the post office until the persons addressed shall pay the amount due, and in many cases results in its total failure to reach its destination.

WM. L. KELLY,

Special Agent in Charge, Dept. of Post-Office,

In charge of Mail, Military Division of the Post-Office,
NASHVILLE, TENN., May 31, 1861.

—Sanitary Reporter.

THE SANITARY GARDENS AT CHATTANOOGA.

None but those who have visited the South and have followed the course of our armies, can realize the desolation which this terrible war, now in progress, has brought upon the land, and especially upon the once fertile valley and pleasant homes of East Tennessee. Wherever the army has swept, a thunderbolt of just revenge, it has left behind it traces of its wrath in desolated, ruined homes—in houses burned to the ground, the two chimneys at either hand left standing like solemn upward pointing fingers, calling to God to look upon the misery that man's evil passions have wrought—in fences torn down, trees uprooted, and in bare stubble-fields where once were rich harvests of grain and cotton.

Chattanooga, situated in the midst of the valley, on the banks of the Tennessee, and surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills, was once noted for its beauty. Shady, carefully kept groves of ancient trees covered the hills and plains, and the houses were surrounded by gardens that bloomed with the most exquisite flowers. The plains around the houses were dotted with fine plantations, where were raised the magnificent crops for which East Tennessee is so justly celebrated. Now the plains are swept literally bare, so that guns on Fort Wood can command the whole valley, from Mission Ridge around to Cameron Hill, and the town itself is reduced to an army post, hot, dusty, and swarming with soldiers. A walk in any direction brings you into a deserted camp, and you stumble over old shoes, ragged torn coats and rusty canteens, telling of where our soldiers lived, before following the universal custom of Yankees on the first of May, they "moved" in search of better quarters at Atlanta. But one thing redeems this sad picture of the havoc that war has made at Chattanooga, and that is the Sanitary Gardens, consisting of a hundred and fifty acres, given by Gen. Thomas

to the United States Sanitary Commission, to be cultivated for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. These gardens lie along the banks of the Tennessee, about three quarters of a mile from the town, up the river. The only approach to them is across a narrow bridge over a little creek, and should you attempt to enter, an imperative "halt" from the sentry with leveled bayonet, disagreeably reminds you that passes anywhere and everywhere and for all sorts of reasons, are the most essential things in Dixie. Once through that barrier, you find yourself upon a level plain, with long rows of onions, beets, turnips, parsnips, etc., stretching away from you on either hand—in one corner of the field you notice a detachment of Uncle Sam's "unbleached American" children in their neat blue uniforms, hoeing away for dear life at the potatoes, as they never hoed before at "the cotton and the corn." The hundred and fifty acres do not lie together, but are separated by a creek or arm of the river into different fields, so that Mr. Wills, the head gardener, has been able to separate his crops, taking one entire field for potatoes, another for corn, and still another for onions, etc. The whole garden is now planted. Nearly in the centre of the garden is an Indian mound, so elevated above the plain, that, standing on its top, you can at a glance take in the whole magnificent scenery. At your left lies the blue Tennessee, glittering out from beyond Mission Ridge, and winding through the valley to the base of Lookout, tangling the hills in a silver braid; opposite, on the Ridge, is that fatal cornfield where Sherman fought so long and so well, and the heights our brave men stormed and won, and farther on towards the right stands old Lookout, a great sentinel, visible for miles away. The sides of this beautiful mound are now green with lettuce, radishes, mustard, etc., but when these are gone the mound will be a fragrant bouquet of flowers from foot to summit. In the centre of the level space on the top is a tent with rustic seats around, and the Sanitary Commission propose to give Cleveland the honor of placing a Union flag over the tent, an emblem of the benevolence as well as the patriotism of the loyal North. Near the mound are the tents and accommodations for the workmen and teams. Besides a large force permanently employed, Mr. M. C. Read, of Hudson, the Agent of the Commission, to whom the success of the gardens is chiefly due, has obtained from the Government one company to be stationed there as guards, and also a company from one of the colored regiments to assist in cultivating. He employs from twenty to thirty horses and mules in ploughing and teaming. Every day ambulances from the various hospitals are sent to the gar-

dens, and return laden with the bounties nature so readily yields to a willing, industrious hand. Already hundreds of bushels of lettuce and other greens have been given to the hospitals at Chattanooga and on Lookout, and should the abundant harvests that are now promised grow to a reality, there will be vegetables enough to supply all the hospitals at that point during the coming summer and fall. Early in April, Mr. Read discovered four fine vineyards along the line of the railroad beyond Mission Ridge, and on application to General Thomas, they were confiscated, and placed at his control. The vines are cultivated on short poles, and when I saw them a few weeks ago, the grapes were set in large quantities. How refreshing to our suffering soldiers, who have lain for nearly three months in crowded wards under the burning Southern sun, will be this delicious fruit next fall! For, said to say, it takes months for a wound to heal, and the patience of a soldier must be even greater than his bravery.

This rambling letter will, I fear, give you a very inadequate idea of the beauty and usefulness of the Sanitary gardens at Chattanooga; but I send it in the hope, that from it your numerous readers will be able to judge, in some measure, of the noble work of the U. S. Sanitary Commission there. The gardens are but a single department of this work, and if I have not wearied you too much with this letter, I hope to have the opportunity of giving you some account of the Commission in connection with the hospitals, and with the battles which have recently taken place at Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, and elsewhere—*Cleveland Herald*.

TESTIMONY OF SURGEON HART.

The Soldier's Aid Society, Northern Ohio, is the Cleveland Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

GENERAL FIELD HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT
OF THE CLEVELAND, RESACA, GA., JUNE 16.
Secretary Soldier's Aid Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

Surrounded as I am upon every side by the generous gifts of the Sanitary Commission to our wounded soldiers, marked "Soldiers' Aid Society, Northern Ohio," it occurs to me that perhaps no word of encouragement has gone back to you in acknowledgment of the large disbursements of your noble charity at this point, and of the invaluable contributions you have made to the comfort of the wounded.

This hospital is the largest field hospital in the department, and has one hundred hospital tents, with cots and appliances to match, and after the battle of Resaca, a month since, received over three thousand wounded. Under the efficient manage-

ment of Surgeon M. C. Walsworth, of Warren, Ohio, the straggling materials from which the organization of nurses and attendants had to be made up, were speedily reduced to complete order and efficiency. Seldom do our wounded receive so careful attendance and nursing immediately after a great battle as have been furnished them at this hospital, and their frequent expressions of satisfaction with the care given them, would go far to dispel dread often felt at home at the word Hospital. As fast as cots could be furnished, the cases admitting of removal were sent back by railroad, as in most instances box cars had to be employed. They were made as clean as possible, and hay plentifully supplied. In hundreds of cases the patient was placed in the car in his cot, and in that manner sent safely and comfortably. In every instance a surgeon accompanied the train to Chattanooga, with nurses, food, stimulants and medicines, while the Sanitary Commission furnished hot coffee and refreshments at Dalton whenever needed.

The sanitary stores here are in charge of Dr. E. C. Warren, Sanitary Inspector, who has also labored as surgeon among the wounded. By far the largest part of the supplies, and especially of the clothing, came marked as the contributions of your society. Without them no effort of the surgeons could have rendered the wounded comfortable. This has been the source of our beautiful supply of milk, which I think one of the first blessings to the wounded, after shelter and a comfortable bed. Most of our extract of beef, which is an indispensable necessity in our circumstances, they have furnished. Also a large amount of dried fruits of all kinds, apples, peaches, pears, blackberries, cherries, &c., and canned fruits in every variety. Then all our choice stimulants—cherry brandy, domestic wines, &c. Some of our patients live for days on little else than the aid received from the Commission. From the Sanitary Garden at Chattanooga we have had supplies of green peas, onions, salad and radishes.

The larger part of our roller bandages, all our cloths for dressings, pads, hundreds of sheets, and drawers, socks, handkerchiefs, pillow-cases, dressing-gowns, these constitute but a part of the wounded soldiers' indebtedness to the Sanitary Commission. I particularly noticed a large invoice of quilts from your society, received here just when the fly-blown blankets could not be endured another day, and one of the most timely of all of your favors.

Attending to the wounded in one of the wards under my care one morning I was amused at the comments they made. Their breakfast had been made palatable with "Sanitary milk," and they had just been

furnished with clean shirts, drawers, sheets and handkerchiefs from sanitary supplies. Of this they were talking, and one of them, taking up a bush to keep off the flies, put on a comical, fault-finding look and tone, and exclaimed, "Well, I'm sure those ladies have sent us everything else we want, and I think they might have put in some fans to keep us cool this hot weather."

Our army had only time to bury their dead and get the wounded to the hospitals when it was ordered to pursue the enemy. In many instances no opportunity was given for regimental officers or surgeons to make out lists of killed and wounded. The omission was supplied here as soon as possible by E. S. Towe, agent of the Sanitary Commission, who went patiently over the extended line of battle, sought out the resting place of the dead, and made full records of the name and regiments of the fallen. He procured the lists of wounded from the records of the Division Hospitals. The lists thus obtained were, in many instances, the first reliable intelligence received by friends at home.

One word as to the manner in which sanitary stores are expended. Do they go to the objects intended by the donors? Here at least they have been faithfully expended. I shall not pretend that every article and item is applied to the best possible purpose, but if one of those noble women who make you the channel of their gifts to our wounded could attend in person to their distribution, I feel assured she would need to be often checked by the surgeon in the liberality of her disbursements, lest the sight of the destitution all around should lead her to speedily exhaust her stores.

Those whom you represent would feel themselves repaid for their labor and self-denial could they fully know what sufferings are palliated, relieved or prevented through their efforts.

Too high terms cannot be used in speaking of the patient endurance of the wounded. Their fortitude in their sufferings must be seen in order to be appreciated, and when every means we employ fail to bring relief to-day, the surgeon often secures patience and hope to his patient by the balm of to-morrow.

In behalf of three thousand wounded soldiers of our army, Surgeon Woodworth requests through you to thank the donors to the Sanitary Commission for the liberal and opportune supplies, which have enabled us to make them by far more comfortable than they could have been done had we relied exclusively upon the appliances furnished by the Government.

Very truly yours,

A. G. HAET,

Surgeon 41st O. V. I.

CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN THE MILITARY HOSPITALS—MEANS OF DIMINISHING IT.

A large share of the Commission's efforts, since the commencement of the present campaign, has been directed to the mitigation of suffering and the saving of life in field and hospital, by timely and intelligent aid to badly wounded men, and especially to those compelled by the cruel necessities of war to be transported, often in rough and clumsy conveyances, with frequent shiftings and changes before reaching their destinations in an Army General Hospital. It is truly the period which elapses between the soldier's fall on the field and his consignment to the hospital, that the real bitterness, the deep agony of war is crowded. The hardships of campaigning are no doubt great, but robust men—and those who pass through the first two months are generally robust—can endure them, and often thrive under them; but where a man is struck down, with the hospital which is finally to shelter him, it may be, a hundred miles away in the rear, soldiering assumes an aspect to him which it never wore before.

The greatest amount of suffering and loss of life falls to the lot of those who have broken bones or wounded joints, especially of the lower limbs, for whom absolute quiet is the most needed remedy, and to whom every jar or motion involves anguish and danger, perhaps of lock-jaw or fatal inflammations. This sad necessity of transporting badly wounded men explains in a great degree the increased mortality of late in the military hospitals at Washington, and the unusual prevalence amongst the wounded of those fatal diseases tetanus and pyemia, which, with exhaustion from chronic diarrhœa, seem to be the most frequent causes of death.

The following extracts from letters from one of the medical members of the Commission, in daily conference with wounded soldiers, and their surgeons in hospitals and *in transitu*, will afford to our readers direct and reliable information as to their wants, and serve as a preface to a statement of the means which the Commission is employing to relieve them.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE WOUNDED.

WASHINGTON, June 16, 1864.

In all the hospitals there is great attention given to the wounded. The special care which the stumps, compound fractures and severe wounds receive, is usually as complete as could be desired. But in almost every ward are found patients whose vital powers are too low to permit the progress of recuperative processes. This I will mention more particularly under the head of pyæmia, secondary hemorrhage, &c.

MORTALITY.

The death-rate is very high, and the causes are obvious; many of them are preventible. Pyæmia, and excessive exhaustion [from long fatigue of transportation, from excessive suppuration, etc.] are chief causes of the excessive mortality. Out of 300 patients among latest arrivals from the Pamunkey, at a single hospital, 14 died within twenty-four hours. There is abundant evidence of inadequate care and subsistence of wounded men during their transportation. Some estimate of the sufferings endured in transportation, at the present time, may be formed from a remark just made to me by Dr. —, surgeon in charge of — Hospital. He says: "On hearing some of these men speak of their sufferings while being transported from the battle fields, and in their trans-shipment, I confess I can scarcely restrain myself from weeping."

The greatest sufferers are those who have compound fractures of the thigh. The means of support for such fractures are utterly inadequate. Drs. —, —, and many hospital surgeons, bear testimony to the needless waste of life, and the terrible increase of suffering, in consequence of the want of adequate means for support and care of thigh fractures, and the severe wounds of the leg and knee.

THE CLASSES AND SEVERITY OF WOUNDS.

The average grade of the severity of wounds now seen in the Hospitals of the Department of Washington is peculiarly severe. For example—in a hospital that I have visited this evening, there are 1,600 patients; and among them have been seen 107 compound fractures of the femur and 42 severe injuries of the knee-joint. The number of amputated limbs in that hospital is not less than 225.

Conservative surgery has a wide field in such hospitals, and when we note the death-rate, we intuitively judge that the proportion of limbs transported northward from the field, for the benefit of such conservative treatment, is far too large. But this hasty judgment may be erroneous, for

the surgeon in charge of the 107 broken femora and the 42 gun-shot knee wounds, says he hopes to save many of these men who have survived five days after arrival; yet he has seen 45 patients die in hospital in a single day—nearly all from the exhaustion of transportation.

The fact respecting these severe wounds of the femur, &c., appears to be that there is an enormous waste of life and an amount of bodily anguish that cannot be described, that we may do much to prevent. I confess that until adequate means to this end are applied, my sleep at night will be disturbed by thoughts upon the subject.

Any successful efforts that may be put forth by surgeons or the Commission to attain the object I now mention, will be to me a cause of greater gratification than the reception of any favors the world can bestow upon myself.

You may judge that every surgeon in charge of the hospitals here urges that something be done quickly and effectively for improvement in the transportation of patients who must be sent northward from the field with such wounds.

Our efforts to supply materials for splints, &c., are not in vain.* The zinc will be at first most used, but the gypsum, and the board splint and litter for lashing both limbs and pelvis will be found more valuable. A large number of stout tin cans (3 galls. each) have been sent forward to-day, filled with calcined gypsum, &c., &c.

* SUGGESTIONS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE PROVISIONAL SPLINTS.

As the object sought is to afford a suitable support to fractured limbs during transportation, it may be desirable to make the splints longer and stronger than would be necessary for patients in hospital. To add strength to the perforated zinc splint, the strips may be doubled, or a light strip of wood may be applied externally in the direction of the shaft of the bone. The cut edges of the zinc may be pressed back by applying the back of the shears against the margin of the metal when resting upon the angle of a board or table. Angles in the splints may be made by cuts or by V's in the margins. Fine oakum or old cloths may be used for padding.

The firmness of the Gypsum Splints may readily be increased by increasing the number of thicknesses of the saturated cloth.

THE MODE OF APPLYING THE GYPSUM SPLINTS.

The following plain directions have been suggested by a surgeon who has had ample experience in their use:

"The limb is first shaven or slightly oiled; a piece of old coarse washed muslin is next selected, of a size so that when folded about four thicknesses it is wide enough to envelop more than half of the circumference of the limb. The solution of plaster is then to be prepared. Fine, well dried, white plaster had better be selected, and before using, a small portion should be mixed with water in a spoon and allowed "to set," with a view of ascertaining the length of time requisite for that process. If it is over five minutes, a small quantity of common salt had better be dissolved in the water before adding the plaster. The more salt added, the sooner will the plaster "set." If delay be necessary, the addition of a few drops of carpenter's glue or mucilage will subserve that end. Equal parts of water and plaster are the best

PYEMIA.

This is the greatest source of mortality in the hospitals here. It is found everywhere, and is the greatest source of concern to all intelligent surgeons. * * *

In this class of patients the powers of assimilation break down, and unless rallied before the initial chill, all chances of life are lost. For a certain class of such patients the Sanitary Commission must supply a pure brandy, and otherwise aid in providing special diet.

Among the best informed surgeons, the opinion prevails that the only preventive measures that can be successfully adopted against this blood poisoning, &c., which is termed *pyæmia*, must be such as will fortify the wounded man against morbid changes, and give him vigor and appetite, anti-scurbutic and appetizing diet, in short. And this is demanded in the field, in ambulances, and on transports, no less than in the General Hospitals. Let fresh vegetables and fruits, and easily assimilated nourishment be always at hand for the wounded if we would hope to diminish the prevalence of *pyæmia*. * * *

proportions. The plaster is sprinkled in the water and gradually mixed with it. The cloth, unfolded, is then immersed in the solution and well saturated; it is then to be quickly folded in halves, arranged and laid on a flat surface, such as a board or a table, and smoothed once or twice with the hand in order to remove any irregularities of its surface, and then, with the help of an assistant, applied to the exterior surface of the limb. The position extending below the level is turned up on the side of the foot, and the sides folded over the dorsum and a fold made at the bottom on either side, and a roller bandage applied pretty firmly over all. The limb is then to be held in a proper position, (extension being made if necessary by the surgeon,) until the plaster becomes hard. The time required in preparing the cloth, mixing the plaster, and applying the casing to the limb, need not be more than fifteen minutes. After the plaster is firm and the bandage removed, we will have a solid plaster of Paris case partially enveloping the limb, leaving a portion of its anterior surface exposed to view. If any swelling occurs, evaporating lotions can be applied to the exposed surface, and we can always easily determine the relation of the fractured ends. If necessary, an interior splint made of the same material, can be applied, and then both bound together with adhesive plaster, and if desirable a roller bandage over all. If the anterior splint is not used, two or three strips of adhesive plaster, one inch wide, or bands of any kind, may be applied around the casing, and will serve to keep it firmly adjusted."

Ordinarily the gypsum and the water are mixed in equal proportions, but they may be varied to suit the evaporator. Very light and porous splint casts may be made by preparing the plaster paste, as follows:

Gypsum, 75 parts, by weight.

Water, 100 parts.

Starch, 15 to 2 parts.

The starch to be boiled clear, in a small quantity of water. If the "setting" of the plaster is too slow, add a little salt. A small proportion of viscid starch tends to delay the "setting" of the plaster, and it may be used for that purpose instead of glue. After the strips of cloth are cut and all is ready, the application of the materials and the completion of the work need not occupy more than ten minutes. Fenestræ or windows for drainage or for observation may be provided beforehand, by cutting the proper apertures in the strips of cloth before immersing them in the plaster paste.

SECONDARY HEMORRHAGE.

The frightful frequency and fatality of this accident is manifestly owing to pathological, or, rather to physiological causes, which the best surgery cannot prevent. It results more from low vitality than from any fault of surgeons. The ligated arteries and the clot plugs in them, in patients dying of secondary hemorrhage, so far as I have examined, exhibit the evidences of degeneration, and the failure of reparative processes, simply a result of defective vitality and consequent delay of physiological repair in the wounded and ligated blood vessel.

Whatever we can do to keep up healthy nutrition and the vigor of wounded men before and during their treatment in hospital tends directly to diminish this fearful accident, which by a sudden gush terminates the life of the patient and the fondest hopes of the faithful surgeon.

LOW VITALITY—ADYNEMIA.

Many days usually intervene between the reception of the patient from the transports and the beginning of recuperative processes in wounded parts. Secondary amputations of course do very badly in such conditions. In this period of low vitality from exhaustion, tetanus is daily occurring in the hospitals.

TETANUS.

The more I see of tetanus here the more evident it is that its prevention is peculiarly dependent upon the adequacy and faithfulness of supply from the sanitary stores of the Sanitary Commission. Warm clothing, quilts and bedding, with more care of wounded parts, will diminish the frequency of tetanus among the wounded. I see some cases daily. The number of cases rapidly diminishes with the general improvement of the wounds.

A certain per centage of cases of tetanus among such severe wounds may be inevitable, but the cold current of damp air, the exposure of the back, uncovered during transportation and in the ward; the want of sleep and want of digestive power, are among the conditions that the supplies and agencies of the Sanitary Commission most directly reach.*

The regular returns will be made from all the hospitals, and next year it will be ascertained and reported that *pyæmia*, tetanus, secondary hemorrhage, and fatal

* Under the auspices of the Commission the distinguished physiologist and physician, Dr. C. E. Brown-Séquard, was induced to visit Washington to lecture on tetanus and the effects on the nervous system of severe hemorrhage. The substance of the lecture, which was delivered on the 14th of June to a large body of the medical staff of the army and navy at the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission is about to publish for distribution to medical officers, as one of its series of medical and surgical monographs.

diarrhea were very prevalent, and caused most of the deaths in the hospitals. But inadequate efforts will be made this year to remove, diminish, or anticipate the causes. The latter is a legitimate function of the Sanitary Commission.

In reference to the second point, viz., improvement of the local atmosphere of wards, a barrel of carbolic acid has been received, and turned over to the proper officer for experimental use, in accordance with Prof. Gibbs' suggestion that it promises more than any other disinfecting agent. The result will be definitely noted. The *Phénot Salique*, which the same person has distributed to the hospitals, is a weak solution of crude carbolic acid, (15 per cent.) and soda (8 per cent.) Prof. Gibbs' suggestion made two years ago, to use carbolic acid upon the walls of wards, as a paint or wash, is worthy of trial.

The fourth point—means of support for fractured limbs: 30 sheets of perforated zinc (7 feet by 10½ inches,) with shears for cutting and fitting the metal, have been sent to the sanitary depot in front for splints; 3 bbls. of stanniferous plaster, coarse cotton cloth, etc., 1 ton of oakum; and to-day a quantity of fracture litters, sent after consultation, to Dr. — and other active men in the Medical Staff.

The importance of this subject is impressive and clear when studied in connection with recent battle reports of the Medical Bureau.

In 20,930 wounds, 749 were compound fractures of femur; and of this number 480 were transported unamputated.

Again, of the knee there are 212 wounds, and of these 135 were transported unamputated. Of the leg, there were 948 gunshot fractures, of which 630 remained unamputated. There were at the same time, 566 gunshot wounds in the lungs and thorax.

The 1st Division, 6th Corps, in the Wilderness, (Fredericksburg observations,) had 34 compound fractures of the thigh, living, 20 amputations, and 14 transported unamputated. It has been found that any one of these transported fractures must be moved, off and on, (unless the bunk or bed goes with the sufferer,) at least 14 times before resting in a general hospital. Often the number of movements is much more! Very few of the wounded thighs and knees now and recently brought to Washington, have any supporting appliances.

WASHINGTON, June 28, 1864.

MY DEAR DOCTOR—Since I last wrote to you there have been several practical questions examined in the hospitals here, with reference to improved means and more successful efforts to save life and mitigate

suffering. Let me briefly mention a few points which I think should be acted upon by the Executive Committee without delay.

How can the Commission aid in preventing the present fearful rate of mortality from pyæmia in these hospitals?

Whatever we would successfully attempt for this purpose must be brought to bear before the fatal blood poisoning and death of bone occur in the patient.

I have just been examining the official report of some thirty deaths from pyæmia in a single hospital of 1,200 beds, and one of the best in the department. Nearly all of these have occurred since the 1st of June. All occurred in patients who had fractured or amputated bones. The greater proportion of the cases occurred in patients that had good chances of surviving, had not the malady here mentioned supervened.

No medication nor care has yet saved a single life among the hundreds I have seen suffering from pyæmia.

Declining all discussion of the histology and the causes of this fatal pest of the hospitals, let me say that good reasons exist for believing that the only available means of diminishing the prevalence of this accident, (as it may justly be termed,) of the surgery and wounds of bone, are—

1st. Improvement of the diet of the patients from the hour of their becoming accessible to the Sanitary Commission on the field, in transports, and in hospitals.

2d. Special means for improving the local atmosphere of the wards, etc., in hospitals.

3d. The establishment of hospitals at higher altitudes and in healthier localities.

4th. By supplying more adequate material aid to the surgeons in the field for the support and care of fractured bones.

To each of these four points I beg that the Commission give intelligent attention.

To the first, second and fourth, I am giving close attention; the third cannot be reached, except through the War Department and the Medical Bureau. But I know that Drs. Cuyler, McDougall, Hamlin, and the best officers of the Staff, hold the same views that I shall soon express to the Commission on this subject.

Now, what can we do to meet the first want of the patients who are liable to the occurrence of pyæmia? We can do much.*

* To insure the army a more varied diet when it should reach its new base on the James River, the following anti-scorbutic stores were sent in May, from New York, and stored in Baltimore:

4,291 galls. pick'd tomatoes,	4,162 galls. pickles,
51,812 lbs. canned tomatoes,	3,580 galls. pickl. onions,
1,406 galls. currant cabbage,	12,000 lbs. apple pulp,
671 bbls. dried apples,	2,400 boxes portable lemonade.
15,168 galls. sour kraut,	

In addition to the above, the following consignment of similar food, has thus far during June, (25th instant,) been sent to the Army in Virginia:

The Commission can at once procure and offer to the hospitals, a car load of fresh vegetables and the best fruits of the season, daily.

Secondly, we may greatly improve the special diet of each hospital by systematizing our special diet kitchens, and by giving, through those kitchens, the aid that is needed in the preparation and distribution of the fruits and the more important vegetables.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

OUR OPERATIONS IN GEORGIA.

Dr. Read writes to Dr. Newberry, from Chattanooga, June 2:

Goods as needed, have been, with few exceptions, promptly furnished.

Gen. Hooker and Gen. Schofield have each furnished one team, to be used under the direction of the agents, connected with the respective corps, while the surgeons of the 4th and 14th corps, in charge of division hospitals, are furnished with orders on the storeroom at Acworth, and they send directly for such stores as they need.

Goods distributed to the wounded the very hour they are brought from the battlefield, are much more highly appreciated by them and by their surgeons, than when given to them a week later, at hospitals in the rear.

I am not sure they do more good, only as they come when all is confusion—come unexpectedly, and thus show,

"Tis not the extent of aid that stamps its worth,
But the nice hour, at which that aid is bestowed."

As I passed on my return, the rooms we have occupied and vacated successively as the army advanced, I was more forcibly than ever impressed with the magnitude of our work.

First, a storeroom and hospital at Ringgold; then one at Dalton, from which goods in large quantities are taken to the field hospitals west of Resaca; then the wounded were moved to Resaca, and rooms opened there; soon the army passed on to

23,789 galls. pick. cucumbers,
8,880 galls. pickled onions,
1,050 galls. sauer kraut,
428 galls. pick. tomatoes,
142,444 lbs. canned tomatoes,
180 lbs. tamarinds,
235 bbls. dried apples,
19 bbls. dried fruit,

73 bbls. potatoes,
8 bbls. prunes,
100 bbls. onions,
201 boxes lemons,
25 boxes oranges,
50 half bbls. porter,
2,040 bottles ess. ginger,
90 bottles lemon juice.

And beyond this, the Associate Secretary for the East has been directed to send to that army, for twenty days to come, \$1,000 worth of fresh vegetables daily.

Kingston, and halting for a day or two to load stores, ours were forwarded and rooms opened. Here, again, teams were loaded for the advance, and what stores could not be carried were sent back, and we were to leave the railroad and our base of supplies, not expecting for sometime to communicate with the rear.

Passing over Pumpkinvine Creek, we again have severe fighting, lasting several days, in the vicinity of Dallas. This resulted in giving us the railroad to Acworth, and soon after, for five miles further to Big Shanty. Acworth is our last depot, where we have now ample supplies for present wants. We shall work and trust, hoping that as more are wanted, they will be furnished. But we have often been so nearly exhausted, that we have suffered greatly, lest we should be called upon for help and not be able to afford it.

Gen. Howard has supplied his corps by giving one of his teams from headquarters loading at Kingston, and sending back there again when necessary.

I left Dr. Brucedritt with Gen. McPherson's command; Mr. Fairchild with Gen. Palmer's; Mr. Crary with Gen. Schofield's, and Mr. Hobbles with Gen. Hooker's and Gen. Howard's—who will also in my absence, have general supervision of the work. Every possible effort has been made to furnish the goods promptly, and the efforts have been successful.

The list of casualties has never been so promptly obtained; it has been furnished and forwarded in almost every instance, within twenty-four hours from the time of action. The list is obtained from the hospital record, or from the slips used by the surgeons for their entries, as the wounded were taken from the ambulances. But since I have come back here I have been astonished and sadly disappointed to find, that lists which I supposed had already reached you, had just arrived here.

So long as we continue to fight this battle, so long must we have a large amount of supplies, of the same kind as previously indicated, viz.: milk, beef, spirits, crackers, rugs and bandages, lemons, farina, sugar, tea, etc. Nothing that we have comes amiss. Arm-slings are of special value.

We shall aid in feeding men on the road between Acworth and Nashville.

The number of sick and wounded is large, but seems to me to be small, when we take into account what the army has done. For forty-five days they have been constantly fighting, or living prepared to fight. Some have fought each day; they have made many miles of fortifications; have slept with little covering in the trenches, and for most of the time there has been constant rain and deep mud, but they live in hope, and are kept up by excitement. A successful result to the campaign will see many more sick than now, while defeat, with all its distressing influences, would be disastrous.

But we hope for success, and expect it. I send this by Prof. Hosford. I shall wait here a day or two, and if better, return to the front; if unable to do that, shall go to Louisville, expecting to go home for a time. I do not desire to do this, until this campaign is ended.

* * * * *

THE MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. Way writes from Memphis, June 24th:

We have had no great battles fought in this department during the past month; still we all have been kept quite busy.

First, came the troops from the ill-fated Red River expedition, who had been on the move for the past few months, without being where they could obtain a supply of vegetables, and for weeks on short rations. We were able, on their arrival here, thanks to our kind, generous friends at the North, to issue a bountiful supply of vegetables to the regiments, and to give to their sick delicacies and other things needed in the regimental hospitals.

Next came the survivors of the expedition under Gen. Sturgis, defeated at Gun-town, Mississippi. These men were in a terrible condition after a running fight of over a hundred miles, and many of them without food for three days. We issued largely to them on their arrival here.

In the meantime, a large number of hundred day troops have arrived, and the change of habits and climate, with mumps, measles, &c., has caused a large amount of sickness. These as well as other troops

are appealing to us for supplies for their regimental hospitals. There are in this vicinity over thirty thousand troops; of these about three thousand are sick in general and regimental hospitals. In supplying the great demand on us for all these, our stores are nearly exhausted.

We ask that our necessities may not be forgotten, as the importance of having a good supply has not been so great for the past fifteen months as at present.

Another large expedition left here four days ago and are opening the Memphis and Charleston railroad towards Corinth. The advance is about fifty miles from here. They are skirmishing continually, and every train brings in more or less wounded.

[Large shipments have been made and were on the way when this letter was written.]

Mr. Grant writes from the same place, June 17th, 1864:

I have been intending every day since my return from St. Louis to send you a report of my operations at this point, but for various reasons have delayed it until now. We have had a constant influx of sick and wounded from the army of the lower Mississippi, besides many from the late expedition to Corinth. Our General Hospitals are now quite full, containing in the aggregate, more than 2,200 patients. The number of late has greatly increased in all of them, except the small-pox, in which there has been a rapid diminution, as you will observe by reference to the hospital reports. This is usually the case during the warm weather of summer. Thus you see there is abundant work for all hands, and as work is more important than reports, I hope you will excuse the delay in writing.

To make a second or third report is a matter of some difficulty, for the reason that day after day, and week after week, our work is the same. Always similar, yet never monotonous, because it is constantly changing. I am aware that this sounds paradoxical, yet it is strictly true.

Please listen for a moment to an account of the daily work of a hospital visitor. He goes to one of the hospitals at 8 A. M. and begins his labors, talking with the sick and wounded, cheering the despondent with hopes of better days, always turning to

them the bright side of the picture, and anon, comforting the dying with those consolations which Christianity alone can give.

Again, in the convalescent ward, he must listen to the complaints of those who are no longer sick; and to the accounts of their wants, fancied or real, explaining to some that the regulations complained of are absolutely necessary, and consoling others with the promise of speedy relief.

Occasionally with pencil, he makes memoranda of what needs further attention.

To-morrow it will be the same; yet as he is conversing with different men, and encountering constantly varying difficulties, the work is always changing. At times his duty takes him to the room of the surgeon in charge, and as delicately as possible he calls attention to certain cases. "Here is a poor fellow who will die if he stays here; but if he could go home to his wife or mother for 30 or 60 days, he would recover. The Northern air would brace him up. Would it be contrary to regulations to grant him a furlough?"

This is a delicate duty and requires care and tact. Here is another man in the convalescent ward who has received a wound in the knee, and the synovia has escaped from the joint. He is permanently disabled and wants a discharge, and when obtained, he needs some help in getting started home.

Cases requiring any articles from the sanitary stores are supplied after consulting with the Agent of the Commission.

I have made no mention of the instances of special relief, for the furloughs and discharges are in the morning reports of the General Hospitals, and the stores distributed are on the returns of Capt. Way.

This work is fatiguing, and after a day's labor the mind and body need rest. In visiting our army hospitals one finds some things to condemn, and which it would be well to remedy if it were possible.

Unfortunately they are beyond the control of the Sanitary Commission and its agents. One of these, is the rough manner in which some surgeons talk to and handle the sick and wounded. Such conduct in private practice would not be tolerated. They surely have forgotten the old adage—"A kind word to the sick is better than physic." In other respects our hos-

pitals are well kept, being under the control of military officers, and subject to military regulations; there is great uniformity in all their proceedings. Neatness, cleanliness, careful attention to the wants of the sick, are the order of the day.

You are aware that the General Hospitals have what is called a "Hospital Fund," produced by commutation of surplus rations. This meets some of the pressing necessities of the sick, but I am informed by the surgeons, that owing to the high prices of everything in Memphis, it only buys about one-fourth of what it would purchase in the North. The deficiency is made up by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. *I have carefully sought for instances of misapplication of said stores by officers, without finding a single instance, and am satisfied so far as this post is concerned, the charge is a gross slander.* I write this because, having nothing to do personally with the stores of the Commission, I feel free to speak of the use made of them.

The vegetables distributed have been of incalculable advantage to the troops, especially those who have returned from the Red River Expedition, many of whom showed strong symptoms of scurvy.

The defects in the hospital records have given me a great deal of trouble. Sometimes I find a man's name and the date of his admission, but no record of what became of him afterwards. Of some who are credibly reported by friends as sent to a certain hospital, there is no record whatever. This was frequently the case when the hospitals were first established here; latterly, the registers have been kept with greater care; and it is to be hoped, that in the future, we may not meet with the same difficulty in tracing the sick. There has appeared in the eye ward of one of our hospitals a few cases of that peculiar affection of the visual organs called by medical men "hemeralopia," and always in those patients having scorbutic symptoms. As the disease is of obscure origin, its duration uncertain, and the rationale of its treatment not well understood, it is to be hoped that some of our surgeons who are competent to the task will carefully investigate the malady, with the view of elucidating its obscurities.

TESTIMONY OF MR. WHEELWRIGHT.

June 7, 1864.

JOSEPH PARRISH, M. D.,

U. S. Sanitary Commission:

SIR—Having just concluded a visit to the "front," and particularly to the 9th Army Corps, made under the auspices of the Commission you represent, and which was rendered comparatively easy by the kind attention of its officers, I beg to state, in general, that having been furnished by Major General Burnside with ample facilities for visitation and inspection, the objects of my journey have been satisfactorily accomplished.

I have had occasion, during several days, to notice the demeanor of officers and men, not only "under fire," but while encountering some of those hardships which are almost inseparable from war, and while expecting to witness courage, endurance and patient submission to fearful privations, I found as I was not prepared for the cheerful alacrity, very eagerness, with which all were met. And now at the conclusion of my visit, I can appreciate fully a remark of Gen. Burnside, when speaking to me of a veteran regiment which had just returned from its furlough to the field with but 80 men, "Eighty guns! that is equal to 4,000 men."

I have found no such patriotism at home as I have witnessed in the field, and return to Massachusetts to urge my fellow-citizens to redouble their exertion to mitigate the sufferings, and as far as possible, present the hardships of these gallant inheritors of the spirit, fortitude and devotion of their fathers. A most noticeable fact was the gratitude of the soldiers (and officers as well,) to the Sanitary Commission for its efficient and abundant labors. "We never should have got along without them," was the universal testimony of high officials, medical and military; and the warm greeting of the private, "How are you Sanitary?" bore witness that the fierce rage of battle had not blunted the finer feelings of his heart.

With many thanks for the facilities afforded me by the Commission, and the courtesies extended by officials,

Very faithfully yours,

H. B. WHEELWRIGHT,

General Agent, Board of State Charities, for Massachusetts.

A LETTER FROM JOHN STUART MILL.

The editorial committee of "Our Daily Fare," of Philadelphia, have received the following admirable letter from John Stuart Mill:

I am sincerely thankful to the editing committee for including me among those from whom they have invited a public expression of sympathy with the cause in which the free states of America are so heroically shedding their best blood.

The war, justifiable and laudable even if it

had continued to be, as it was at first, one of mere resistance to the extension of slavery, is becoming, as it was easy to foresee it would, more and more a war of principle for the complete extirpation of that curse. And in proportion as this has become apparent, the sympathies of nearly all in Europe whose approbation is worth having, are resuming their natural course, and the cause of the North will soon have no enemies on this side of the Atlantic, but those who prefer any tyranny, however odious, to a triumph of popular government.

It would be unpardonable did I omit on an occasion like this, to express my warmest feelings of admiration for the Sanitary Commission. History has afforded no other example—though it is to be hoped that it will hereafter afford many—of so great a work of usefulness extemporized by the spontaneous self-devotion and organizing genius of a people, altogether independently of the government.

But while the present struggle has called into brilliant exercise all the high qualities which the institutions of the American republic have made general among her citizens, it has also laid open—as it is the nature of trying times to do—all the weak points in her national habits, and in the working of her institutions.

These are, doubtless, far better known to thoughtful Americans than they are likely to be to any foreigner; and this great historical crisis will be doubly blessed if it directs attention to them. In all states of society the most serious danger is that the national mind should go to sleep on the self-satisfied notion that all is right with it; but the great awakening of the public conscience which is taking place on the one political and social abomination, which has done more than all other causes together to demoralize American politics, has probably removed all danger of this sort for one generation at least, and warrants the hope that the American people will not rest satisfied with the great advantages which no other people and no other Government possesses in so high a degree, but will resolve that their democracy shall not be behind any nation whatever in those elements of good government which have been thought to find a more congenial soil in other states of society, and under other political institutions.

JOHN STUART MILL.

AVONION, May 25, 1864.

THE COMMISSION ON THE JAMES RIVER AND THE APPOMATTOX.

The following are extracts from an interesting series of letters from Dr. Parrish:

JAMES RIVER, VA., June 17, 1864.

Having been furnished with a pass from the Secretary of War and of the Navy, our little fleet took a new start this morning from the "Roads," from which I wrote last; and we are now passing up the James. Intelligence has been received by the arrival of an agent, that our advance boat, which left White House on the 12th instant, has not only reached City Point with her stores and agents, but has sent forward men to the front with comforts and support. This was accomplished before the Army of

the Potomac had crossed the James, and the wisdom of the expedition is thus fully justified. Had there been twelve hours delay, it is probable the pontoon bridges would have obstructed the passage of the river, and our stores would not have gone forward. It was known, however, that at Bermuda Hundred there was already a Sanitary base, with a branch at City Point, and another at Point of Rocks, which was doing good service for the Army of Virginia and North Carolina, and which would withhold nothing that it could give for the Army of the Potomac.

We have, however, saved that necessity, being in advance with a boat load of supplies and thirty-three auxiliary relief agents.

We run up the river at about eight miles an hour, passing Harrison's Landing and Powhattan Fort, and found an anchorage near where, but yesterday, the last train of the Army of the Potomac crossed the south side of the James. Not far from this spot was lying the late rebel ram Atlanta, with her angry guns, and most awkward decks. Evening is upon us, and our family gather in the still twilight, for their accustomed devotions, the opening hymn—

"I would not live away."

Most of the company appreciated the appropriateness of this selection. It was sung with solemnity. After the prayer, it was stated that a young comrade of the auxiliary relief corps, who but a few days since had left the White House for his home in Massachusetts, had died a few hours after reaching there. Appropriate remarks were made by those who knew him best, and his calm and confiding resignation was touchingly described by the friend who attended him on his homeward journey. The following preamble was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, God, who ordereth all things, has seen fit to take to himself, Charles H. Stanley, our brother and co-laborer in our Christian work; therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we express in a public manner, our great sorrow at the loss of one whose life was so full of hope and promise.

2. *Resolved*, That we consider his faithfulness in the discharge of his duties in the hospitals, his hearty co-operation in all plans for the comfort of our wounded, and especially his love for their souls, an example to be followed by every member of the Commission.

3. *Resolved*, That by this sudden death, we are warned that the time for life's work is short, for the night cometh, wherein no man can work; and that we endeavor by our efforts in behalf of the suffering, to advance the Gospel of Christ, whom the deceased loved, and to whose service his life was devoted.

4. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the parents of the deceased, as expressive of our deep sympathy in their great affliction, and also that they be published.

Our young friend Stanley has left behind him an influence for good, that will be felt by all who treasure the memory of his virtues.

June 18th.—To-day we reach City Point. The river is active with stirring vessels; troops are arriving, hospitals are transferred from the White House to this new base, and the wharves are being loaded with stores and ammunition from Government steamers, while the Commission fills its modest place in the lively panorama. Cannonading is heard in the vicinity of Petersburg, a few wounded are coming in, and the benevolent visitors from all quarters, are beginning their work. The Commission has had its agents and stores here for more than six weeks. A new feeding station is established from the steamer Grey, which arrived on Tuesday last, and to-day the bountiful supplies from our fleet are being called for. The Elizabeth will be away to-morrow, for a load of anti-scorbutics, which awaits her at Norfolk. The front, some six miles away, is also supplied, and immediately on our arrival an additional supply was sent forward. Our dressers were going about among the hospitals very soon after our landing, and are now still occupied. Thus the work—the old work, at the new place, has commenced, and there will be much service, even before the corps hospitals are located.

CITY POINT, VA., June 19, 1864.

My last closed with our arrival at this place, and you will now expect an account of the situation. From the anchorage it may be discovered in its general aspect. City Point is on the south side of the James River, at the mouth of the Appomattox. Two miles distant, on the opposite shore, is Bermuda Hundred, situated on the curve which unites the line of the two rivers. The James pursues its northward course, and is imposing and inviting. The Appomattox is the water route to Petersburg, and is a winding stream lined with pines and cypress. The currents of both are united at the little promontory, on the summit of which stands the town, the most attractive building and grounds being on the extreme point, a part of which is used as headquarters by the general-in-chief. The houses are shell-marked, and deserted by the citizens, and are now chiefly used as hospitals.

So far as the Commission is concerned, the situation is interesting, and should be understood before the establishment of a new base. As you know, this department is

designated the "Department of the Peninsula and Norfolk," and is under the charge of Dr. McDonald. Its base of supplies is Norfolk. Its line begins at Wilson's Landing on the James, about twenty-five miles below City Point, embracing Fort Powhatan, Bermuda Hundred, and following up the James to Dutch Gap, where lies the extreme right of Maj.-Gen. Butler's line. Running up the Appomattox from City Point it takes in Spring Hill, crosses the river at Point of Rocks, and then continues overland to Dutch Gap again. The line of earthworks covers about seven and a half miles, and the line from the base to the extreme point northward is about one hundred and twenty miles. The Commission has three stations in this department, not including Norfolk and Portsmouth, viz.: at City Point, Bermuda Hundred and Point of Rocks. There are thirteen relief agents, who feed the wounded as they come in; and when they are not coming, visit the different regiments and garrisons to ascertain the wants of the men and supply them, read and write for them, and hold religious meetings among them. I think I mentioned in a late letter, that no meetings were held by the Commission for soldiers in the Army of the Potomac, but I find that it is the custom to do so in the Peninsular and Norfolk Department. The religious work at White House and other places, has been mainly private, quiet, and unobserved by those who are not familiar with it. The propriety of holding meetings in hospitals is, to say the least, very doubtful, as the men require rest and quiet; and yet the testimony of those who have made more through trial of them is considered favorable.

At Point of Rocks there is a provisional and a depot Hospital, at Norfolk and Portsmouth four, besides a Lodge, at which there were dispensed in the month of May 1,112 meals and 386 lodgings. At Yorktown and Bermuda there are hospitals also, and at Williamsburg the Asylum for the Insane, which is supplied from this department. Each regiment has a hospital for the sick only, the wounded being carried from the front where their wounds are first dressed, to Point of Rocks. There they receive a second dressing, and are sent to Fortress Monroe. The supplies are, of course, distributed from Norfolk by steamer, the John R. Thompson being in the service of the Commission for that purpose.

To-day I took a tour of observation from this place to Point of Rocks, Bermuda Hundred and Jones' Landing, the latter about fifteen miles above here on the James. A number of gunboats on the way needed supplies, and in obedience to the recent order concerning the Navy, they were furnished with what they required. At Jones' Landing a small force was stationed to

guard the forage and stores which are shipped to that point, and an expedition about starting out through a wasted country, was furnished with a few comforts that they will need before their return. At Point of Rocks and Bermuda Hundred there are stations adjacent to hospitals from which the Commission dispenses its stores directly to the men in the wards.

I have referred to a provisional Hospital; the term may need some explanation. As the General Hospitals at Washington and other points become crowded for room, those who are in condition for it are sent to Convalescent Camps, where they remain in process of recovery, and as these in turn become crowded, such as are the nearest well are sent to provisional Hospitals, and kept till they are able to rejoin their regiments. The men using such establishments may be from a great number of regiments, and are under care of surgeons specially detailed for the service. As they have no regular organization, they have no opportunity of drawing in the regular manner from Quartermaster or Commissary, except for army rations. Being often feeble men, or men with wounds partially healed, scarcely sick enough for hospital or well enough for service, they frequently suffer for want of the proper kind of supplies, and the Commission may be especially serviceable under such circumstances. This is one of the peculiar cases, of which but little is known by the public. * * *

The hospitals will be located from one to two miles up the Appomattox. The tents will be pitched very soon; we must find wharfage at City Point, as there can be no landing place above, more than will be needed for hospital transports and purveyor's boats, and every wharf must be built. The whole ground has been carefully surveyed. I had the pleasure of accompanying the surveying party. Open fields, swamps, forests, roads, ravines, &c., were all traversed, and the conclusion reached that we must locate barges at the Point, and transport supplies to hospitals by wagons. Feeding stations are temporarily placed at the Point, to supply any immediate or temporary want, but as the several corps locate on their new ground, we shall follow and be ready to serve them, and place the feeding stations on the routes to steamboats. The auxiliary relief corps will soon be on the hospital ground, and the system formerly described will be at work.

In observing and locating, we discover a few trains of wounded coming in, and the tents are beginning to be occupied. The dressing party are out with their lint and bandages, rendering proper aid. Many of the troops are colored men. They endure their wounds as they have endured the struggles of the field, and with an endurance and heroism that is alike honora-

ble to their manhood and to their patriotism. By common consent it is admitted that no troops are more willing, none more valiant or victorious, than those of sable skin.

You will expect from me to-day some account of the hospital ground at this base. I premise my observations on this subject by the general remark that compared with the White House, it is far inferior. The fields are large, and the corn on some of them is about three feet high. This is a fine chance for the horses, and will do them good. It is perhaps quite as agreeable to them as strawberries and ice-cream would be to us, who, with dried apples and potatoes as our only stock of fruit and vegetables for table use, are content. The soil of the hospital tract is light and sandy, much like that of New Jersey on the Delaware shore. As the hospitals have no floors, and the dust is very light, there may be some disadvantage to the wounded on that account, as no one can pass to and fro among them without disturbing the dust, even within the wards. This will be remedied in a few days, after time is allowed to tramp and harden the ground.

Among the very first things to be done in locating a hospital is to find a burial spot. Already it has been chosen here. Just upon the crown of a slope that falls gently toward a wooded ravine, a little cemetery has been provided. Before sun-set to-day seven soldiers were buried. As our party passed over the ground these men were employed in the sad work of burial. They were covering one poor fellow under the sand, and two more were lying blanketed on the ground. As I lifted the cover from the face of one, the expression of composure was most striking. The dust and sweat of battle were still upon his brow, the wound upon the shoulder was carefully dressed, and he had died doubtless with but little suffering of body or mind.

The arrangement of the hospitals into corps and their division into separate departments, is similar to that at the White House. Their organization and that of the Commission maintain their previous relation to the hospitals, and it only remains for me to notice particularly the main feature of difference in the establishment of a floating hospital. You remember the large North River steamer "New World." She was hauled up to-day to a landing on the Appomattox to take on her freight of lacerated humanity. This is a great institution, free from dust and oppressive heat, yet rather too close in some parts for wounded men; yet it is an improvement. It has now about one thousand beds, which may be increased in an emergency to twelve or fifteen hundred. I spent some hours on board of her to-day,

during the receipt of her patients, and had the pleasure of conducting the labors of a party of dressers, detailed from the auxiliary corps of the Commission, in the most valuable service of dressing wounds and feeding men. They labored assiduously from early in the afternoon till towards midnight, and the blessing conferred upon the sufferers was incalculable. The surgeon in charge and his assistants kindly placed at the disposal of these workers whatever they need to complete this supplementary labor. Letters were written to absent families, spiritual comfort administered to the dying, and the evening closed with much enduring satisfaction. I note below a few instances of personal interest:

No. 1.—A strong man, with both eyes blinded. A hall passed into the left temple, and had evidently destroyed or greatly injured the visual nerves. The eyes were protruded and closed—closed forever. Leaning over him to comfort him, hy applications to the inflamed and protruding parts, the following conversation was had:

"My friend, you are seriously hurt. Do you suffer much pain?"

"I suffer some, but I consider myself very fortunate in not being as bad off as I hear some of my comrades are."

"That is very good of you, but really the loss of sight is a great affliction, and I feel for you very much."

"Yes, I know you do, but I am pretty lucky; I had six balls through my hat before I stopped this one, and now I have it in my head. I suppose I must keep it for a keepsake."

No. 2.—A boy of sixteen. He enlisted as a drummer-boy, and as the regiment to which he was attached were advancing, he pressed forward further than was prudent, and received a shot in the right arm. It was not a serious wound, but still caused much pain. He was asked if he did not want to go home now that he had suffered from the enemy. "Oh, no," said he, "That ain't me; I wouldn't shirk because I was hit; I mean to stick to it till the end."

"But would you not rather be at home with your mother, and let her dress your wound?"

"Well, sir, I'm willing to take my luck with the rest of 'em; I didn't come to fight; but as they did knock me, I won't complain."

"Dress my wound easy, sir; hold her up careful, and then let me sleep."

No. 3.—An aged man, shot in his breast, and dying. He is the father of nine living children. His wife is living, and she does not know his condition. After his wound is soothed and he is fed as far as he can bear, he is asked what else he will have done. The answer is, "write to my family if you please, sir; tell them about me, and tell them that I will soon see them at home."

He was informed that he would never see his earthly home again. "Well, if that is so," said he, "I must be content. I have tried to do right, and in serving my country, I hope I have done right, though I have often thought that if we were all what we should be, there would be no fighting with carnal weapons. Religion is love, the right kind of love; the best kind, sir, and I hope I love even my enemies, though I find it very hard to do so," &c., &c.

No. 4.—A slightly wounded man, young and vigorous. "What do you need, my friend?" "Only one thing, sir, beside my supper, which hasn't come round to me yet, and that is, that you will write to my wife, who will see that our regiment has been in the fight, and will, of course, think the rebels have hit me. Tell her, with my love, that they did, but they didn't do it to hurt; that I'm her husband yet, and the country is our country yet, and our flag is our flag yet, and I mean to stick to her, and the country, and the flag, till the very last."

So I might go on enumerating case after case of interest, but will mention but one more.

A lad of seventeen years, full size, and of older appearance; a bad wound in thigh.

"How came you into the service, my friend, so young as you are?"

"I wanted to come, sir; I thought I could do as well as some I knew that are older."

"Where are you from?"

"I was born, sir, in Pennsylvania, and when I am at home, I am a Pennsylvanian, but when I enlisted, I enlisted for my country; and now that I am here, my home is here; I belong to Uncle Sam, sir."

I furnish below a list of articles sent up with our dressers to the wounded in the boat. It is the first contribution towards the outfit for the vessel.*

June 22d.—A detail of dressers went again to the floating hospital, having been assigned by the surgeon in charge to different parts of the boat, so that there should be no confusion, the kindly offices of delegates of the Christian Commission were harmoniously incorporated with those of

our own organization, and all together succeeded in supplementing the over-taxed service of the medical officers, so that all were attended to before they were re-shipped on the transports for Washington.

One word about the "New World." She is three stories high, the state rooms being used, as of old, and the grand saloon and machinery deck being now fitted out with rows of iron bedsteads, with white sheets and pillows, and fine white double blankets. An elevator is placed near the centre, between the gangways, for elevating the wounded from the first to either of the upper stories; the hatch way is large enough to take two stretchers or cots at a time. A detail of men work the ropes, while others are in readiness to carry them away to their respective wards.

It was a pleasure to witness the comparatively complete arrangements thus furnished by the Medical Department, which, with every other branch of the service has been improving constantly, with the ever-developing experiences of the trying years through which we have been passing.

CITY POINT, VA., June 23d, 1864.

When men are disabled by wounds, the first thing is to get them off the field. Their comrades cannot stop to do this, their business being to fill the vacant spaces in the ranks and press on with the conflict. Here then is the necessity for a separate organization. The army regulation provides for it, by directing six stretcher-bearers to go with each regiment, of not less than five hundred men and then ambulances, with two men attached to each. It is the duty of the stretcher-bearers to pick up the fallen and carry them to the ambulances, which are as near as possible to the scene, and return rapidly for others. They are then carried directly to the hospitals, which may be a mile or more from the battle line, and placed in the wards, there being another train of ambulances to carry those who have been attended to in hospitals to the base, which is several miles distant. Here they are classified; those who are but slightly wounded are retained to be sent back to service again; when others who are able are distributed by transports to Northern hospitals. Following them from the very beginning, are surgeons and assistant surgeons, the whole organization, its discipline, &c., being under the charge of the Medical Director.

There is a Chief of Corps Ambulance Train with the rank of Captain; another who is chief of Brigade Ambulance Train, and a third who has charge of the Regimental Train with the rank of first and second Lieutenant, respectively. A fact in this connection has been demonstrated in this campaign which is so noteworthy that I will insert it. It is this: that the stretcher-

* Requisition for 1,200 patients on "Floating Hospital New World."

2 bbls. bandages.	1 box tea and coffee.
2 " old rags.	508 cotton shirts.
31 bed pans.	350 " drawers.
4 boxes lemons.	344 " socks.
8 bbls. crackers.	144 lbs. farina.
Sponges and bed socks in quantity.	100 tin cups.
3 boxes sherry wine.	24 wooden buckets.
2 " candles.	48 lanterns.
12 bottles brandy.	13 bottles whiskey.
30 prs. crutches.	600 fans.
250 pillow cases.	200 sheets.
1 roll rubber cloth.	68 cushions.
200 splints.	Quantity mosquito netting.
6 dippers.	6 tin pans.
36 table spoons.	120 lbs. corn starch.
13 urinals.	

bearers have been unusually venturesome and brave, so much so, that in their eagerness to bring the wounded off without delay, several have lost their lives under the fire of the enemy.

Another fact equally praiseworthy is, that surgeons have sometimes entrenched themselves temporarily and in advance of their allotted places, so as to be foremost in rendering relief, and that none of the wounded have been sent to the base who have not been properly examined and attended to. An important feature of the field-hospital is its operating tent, and its medicine wagons. The tent has a table and a few needful appliances under the care of a man whose duty it is to keep it and the surgical instruments in good order and ready for service at any time. A medicine wagon is a curiosity, containing all the variety of medicines and utensils that are suitable for any ordinary drug shop. The bottles are compactly arranged in slides, so that they may be seen and handled, and yet be secure from breakage while on a march.

There are three chief operating surgeons selected to do the surgery of the corps, each one having an assistant, and all of them being chosen for their professional ability without reference to rank.

A steward is selected to collect pathological specimens, to prepare and preserve them. Another to make the record of wounds, deaths, &c., and report daily to the Medical Director.

A lieutenant of the line is chosen as commissary of hospital, whose duty it is to keep on hand one thousand rations and a small herd of beef cattle, of which there is no scarcity. Indeed, the men are asking for salt pork, and it would be a luxury for them in the way of change. The cattle are in good condition, and are killed as they are needed, so that the beef is fresh and good. The Commission is now furnishing to the men in trenches and field, quantities of "saur kraut," as a convenient and acceptable form of vegetable diet. A few potatoes are occasionally allowed in the ration, but too seldom to be of much service. Plenty of coffee and sugar are issued. Ice is common. It is abundant in hospitals and may be had by well troops. The ice-houses of the farmers, many of which are large and well fitted, furnish the supply.

I think I stated in a former letter that each Army Corps had two wagons belonging to the Commission. If so, I was in error. There is one wagon and one Relief Agent with each corps permanently. The agent occupies a tent alongside of the wagon, from which stores are issued to the different divisions, on the requisitions of surgeons or chaplains, or any responsible and trustworthy representative of the men. The delegates of the Christian Commission

have the liberty of drawing from our stores, and of acting as distributors at their pleasure; and they use the privilege no more freely than it is granted. Each wagon may be replenished every other day by the supply train, which leaves the base to a designated spot in the vicinity of the hospital every twenty-four hours, for the purpose of filling the demand. The base draws upon Washington; Washington receives from the people; and the people, true to the instincts of humanity, true to the interests of the country, have never yet withheld. They never will.

One feature may be noticed in what I have written concerning the front, that is not sufficiently regarded, viz., the purpose to keep the well men from getting sick, as they lie in the trenches and under shelter tents within reach of the enemy's guns. Many persons think that the supplies of the Commission are exclusively for the sick and wounded; and while it is true that the hospital delicacies, &c., are reserved for hospital cases, it is equally true that saur kraut, pickles, &c., are not adapted to hospital use. They are purchased for those who are not on sick call, but who might be, but for the vegetable diet which they so much need. There are now in store at this point one hundred and twenty-eight barrels of pickles, one hundred and twenty-three barrels of saur kraut, and forty kegs of curry and cabbage, subject to orders from the front exclusively. Perhaps the greatest necessity of the exposed men is woolen under clothing, of which large quantities are issued. The Government furnishes cotton clothing, but it is not so valuable as a health-preserver in this climate as woolen. There will be a large demand for flannel shirts and drawers, in addition to those needed for hospitals.

The spires and buildings of Petersburg are in view. The fortifications of the enemy are formidable in extent and construction. Having been routed from their outer lines, the opportunity for observing the works is undisturbed. That our forces captured them by a charge, is an evidence of valor for which the Union troops have already earned an unexampled reputation. A few faint and weary ones are found struggling back to the hospitals, or seeking rest and sleep in the tall pine forests which line the roadways. Ambulances are coming in and discharging their wounded, and other ambulances are going to the base with their loads of patient sufferers. Great trains of forage and ammunition are coming and empty ones going, till the roads are crowded and jammed with the cumbersome trains; the air is filled with dust, and the harsh roar of the guns rumbles among the pines with fearful power. Horsemen and footmen move along amid the clouds of sand and are almost unperceived. While Generals

and Colonels and troops are fighting, surgeons and stewards and Commissions are binding up the wounds and restoring the faint. Fields are desolated, houses are burned and burning, the population scattered, and thousands of widows and orphans are being made, for the breath of war breathes waste and destruction. * * *

At this base the labors of Sanitary agents are more arduous than at the White House. The hospitals are about two miles from the supplies on the boats. All the stores have to be transported by wagon for this distance, and when they reach their destination they are carried to the wards through clouds of dust and the most enervating heat, to the men directly. It is a matter of surprise that being unaccustomed to this kind of exposure, the gentlemen of the Commission endure as they do. The heat is most exhausting, the water poor, and the dust almost intolerable. One thought, however, sustains the heart and strengthens the will, and that is that the soldiers suffer far more, and endure suffering with a patience that forbids complaint on the part of those who minister to them.

I will close by noticing a little visitor who presented himself on board the barge this P. M. Constantine J——, a boy who says he is "eleven going on twelve," his home is Indianapolis, Ind., his mother not living. Constantine is a very small boy, light hair, blue eyes, freckled face, bare footed and almost without clothing; he has been with the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, and was brought here by its chaplain. The little fellow was enticed away from his home a year ago by soldiers, and has been following the army ever since, finally finding protection with the artillery. He is not home-sick; says he sometimes feels like going home, but likes the army very much. He describes the battle of Mine Hill with peculiar interest; says that several shells burst not far from him and scared him a little, but he "wouldn't run." He says a Dutch captain tried to get him to run, but he wouldn't do it, preferring to shield himself behind a stump and see it through. He is getting washed, and some clothing is being shortened to fit him, that he may be forwarded by to-morrow's messenger to the Washington office, and thence to his home.

I cannot well forbear writing an incident which touched me very much a few days since. It is well known that the Commission does not issue army clothing to men in the field, and yet if a soldier is pantsless, he is very apt to come to the Commission to be supplied. One such came a few days since, and applied at the counter for a pair of pantaloons. There were none for him, and as he was turning away disconsolate, one of the auxiliary corps stepped up and said, "I have on a good pair of drawers

besides these pants, you shall have the pants," and off they came, and were in a few moments on the soldier. By the aid of a few buttons the drawers were converted into respectable trousers, and the giver was more delighted apparently than the receiver.

A few days since I saw a poor little drummer boy come to the counter for a pair of shoes. He asked modestly, and on being told that the last pair had been sent away, he replied, "Well, I can get along a little while longer with these, but they are hardly worth putting on," and was about to go away, and I noticed the eyes of an agent to fill with the swelling tide from his heart as he called the boy back, and said, "Here, my good fellow, you shan't go without new shoes, take mine." He was not permitted, however, to part with them, but another stepped forward and furnished the means of purchasing a pair, (not soldiers' shoes,) from a party who had them for sale, so that the drummer boy went away satisfied.

NOTES ON NURSING.

OBSERVATION OF THE SICK.

Almost all superstitions are owing to bad observation, to the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*; and bad observers are almost all superstitions. Farmers used to attribute disease among cattle to witchcraft; weddings have been attributed to seeing one magpie, deaths to seeing three; and I have heard the most highly educated nowadays draw consequences for the sick closely resembling these.

Another remark: although there is unquestionably a physiognomy of disease as well as of health; of all parts of the body, the face is perhaps the one which tells the least to the common observer or the casual visitor. Because, of all parts of the body, it is the one most exposed to other influences, besides health. And people never, or scarcely ever, observe enough to know how to distinguish between the effect of exposure, of robust health, of a tender skin, of a tendency to congestion, of suffusion, flushing, or many other things. Again, the face is often the last to show emaciation. I should say that the hand was a much surer test than the face, both as to flesh, color, circulation, &c. It is true that there are some diseases which are only betrayed at all by something in the face, e. g., the eye or the tongue, as great irritability of brain by the appearance of the pupil of the eye. But we are talking of casual, not minute, observation. And few minute observers will hesitate to say that far more untruth than truth is conveyed by the oft repeated words, he looks well, or ill, or better or worse.

Wonderful is the way in which people will go upon the slightest observation, or often upon no observation at all, or upon some saw which the world's experience, if it had any, would have pronounced utterly false long ago.

I have known patients dying of sheer pain, exhaustion, and want of sleep, from one of the most lingering and painful diseases known, preserve, till within a few days of death, not only the healthy color of the cheek, but the mottled ap-

pearance of a robust child. And scores of times have I heard these unfortunate creatures assailed with, "I am glad to see you looking so well." "I see no reason why you should not live till ninety years of age." "Why don't you take a little more exercise and amusement," with all the other commonplaces with which we are so familiar.

There is, unquestionably, a physiognomy of disease. Let the nurse learn it.

The experienced nurse can always tell that a person has taken a narcotic the night before by the paleness of the color about the face, when the reaction of depression has set in; that very color which the inexperienced will point to as a proof of health.

There is, again, a faintness, which does not betray itself by the color at all, or in which the patient becomes brown instead of white. There is a faintness of another kind, which, it is true, can always be seen by the paleness.

But the nurse seldom distinguishes. She will talk to the patient who is too faint to move, without the least scruple, unless he is pale, and unless, luckily for him, the muscles of the throat are affected and he loses his voice.

Yet these two faintnesses are perfectly distinguishable, by the mere countenance of the patient.

Again, the nurse must distinguish between the idiosyncracies of patients. One likes to suffer out all his suffering alone, to be as little looked after as possible. Another likes to be perpetually made much of and pitied, and to have some one always by him. Both these peculiarities might be observed and lodged much more than they are. For quite as often does it happen that a busy attendance is forced upon the first patient, who wishes for nothing but to be "let alone," as that the second is left to think himself neglected.

Again, I think that few things press so heavily on one suffering from long and incurable illness, as the necessity of recording in words from time to time, for the information of the nurse, who will not otherwise see, that he cannot do this or that, which he could do a month or a year ago. What is a nurse there for if she cannot observe these things for herself? Yet I have known—and known too among those—and especially among those—whom money and position put in possession of every thing which money and position could give—I have known, I say, more accidents, (fatal, slowly or rapidly,) arising from this want of observation among nurses than from almost anything else. Because a patient could get out of a warm bath alone a month ago—because a patient could walk as far as his bell a week ago, the nurse concludes that he can do so now. She has never observed the change; and the patient is lost from being left in a helpless state of exhaustion, till some one accidentally comes in. And this not from any unexpected apoplectic, paralytic, or fainting fit, (though even these could be expected far more, at least, than they are now, if we did but observe.) No, from the unexpected, or to be expected, inevitable, visible, calculable, uninterrupted increase of weakness, which none need fail to observe.

Again, a patient not usually confined to bed, is compelled by an attack of diarrhea, vomiting, or other accident, to keep his bed for a few days; he gets up for the first time, and the nurse lets him go into another room, without coming in, a few

minutes afterwards, to look after him. It never occurs to her that he is quite certain to be faint, or cold, or to want something. She says, as her excuse, Oh, he does not like to be fidgetted after. Yes, he said so some weeks ago; but he never said he did not like to be "fidgetted after," when he is in the state he is in now; and if he did, you ought to make some excuse to go in to him. More patients have been lost in this way than is at all generally known, viz., from relapses brought on by being left for an hour or two faint, or cold, or hungry, after getting up for the first time.

Yet it appears that scarcely any improvement in the faculty of observing is being made. Vast has been the increase of knowledge in pathology—that science which teaches us the final change produced by disease on the human frame—scarce any in the art of observing the signs of the change while in progress. Or, rather, is it not to be feared that observation, as an essential part of medicine, has been declining?

Which of us has not heard fifty times, from one or another, a nurse, or a friend of the sick, eye, and a medical friend, too, the following remark: "So A. is worse, or B. is dead. I saw him the day before; I thought him so much better; there certainly was no appearance from which one could have expected so sudden (f) a change." I have never heard any one say, though one would think it the more natural thing, "There must have been some appearance, which I should have seen if I had but looked; let me try and remember what there was, that I may observe another time." No, this is not what people say. They boldly assert that there was nothing to observe, not that their observation was at fault.

Let people who have to observe sickness and death look back and try to register in their observation the appearances which have preceded relapse, attack, or death, and not assert that there were none, or that there were not the right ones.

It falls to few ever to have had the opportunity of observing the different aspects which the human face puts on at the sudden approach of certain forms of death by violence; and as it is a knowledge of little use, I only mention it here as being the most startling example of what I mean. In the nervous temperament the face becomes pale, (this is the only recognized effect); in the sanguine temperament purple; in the bilious yellow, or every manner of color in patches. Now, it is generally supposed that paleness is the one indication of almost any violent change in the human being, whether from terror, disease, or anything else. There can be no more false observation. Granted, it is the one recognized lividity, as I have said—*de rigueur* in novels, but nowhere else.

A want of the habit of observing conditions and an inveterate habit of taking averages are each of them often equally misleading.

Men whose profession like that of medical men leads them to observe only, or chiefly, palpable and permanent organic changes are often just as wrong in their opinion of the result as those who do not observe at all. For instance, there is a broken leg; the surgeon has only to look at it once to know; it will not be different if he sees it in the morning to what it would have been had he seen it in the evening. And in whatever conditions the patient is, or is likely to be, there will still be the broken leg, until it is set. The same

with many organic diseases. An experienced physician has but to feel the pulse once, and he knows that there is anæmism which will kill some time or other.

But with the great majority of cases, there is nothing of the kind; and the power of forming any correct opinion as to the result must entirely depend upon an inquiry into all the conditions in which the patient lives. In a complicated state of society in large towns, death, as every one of great experience knows, is far less often produced by any one organic disease than by some illness, after many other diseases, producing just the sum of exhaustion necessary for death. There is nothing so absurd, nothing so misleading as the verdict one so often hears: So-and-so has no organic disease—there is no reason why he should not live to extreme old age; sometimes the clause is added, sometimes not: Provided he has quiet, good food, good air, &c., &c., &c.; the verdict is repeated by ignorant people without the latter clause; or there is no possibility of the conditions of the latter clause being obtained; and this, the only essential part of the whole, is made of no effect. I have heard a physician, deservedly eminent, assure the friends of a patient of his recovery. Why? Because he had now prescribed a course, every detail of which the patient had followed for years. And because he had forbidden a course which the patient could not but by any possibility alter.

I have known two cases, the one of a man who intentionally and repeatedly displaced a dislocation, and was kept and pelted by all the surgeons; the other of one who was pronounced to have nothing the matter with him, there being no organic change perceptible, but who died within the week. In both these cases, it was the nurse who, by accurately pointing out what she had accurately observed, to the doctors, saved the one case from persevering in a fraud, the other from being discharged when actually in a dying state.

I will even go further and say, that in diseases which have their origin in the feeble or irregular action of some function, and not in organic change, it is quite an accident if the doctor who sees the case only once a day, and generally at the same time, can form any but a negative idea of its real condition. In the middle of the day, when such a patient has been refreshed by light and air, by his tea, his beef-tea, and his brandy, by hot bottles to his feet, by being washed and by clean linen, you can scarcely believe that he is the same person as lay with a rapid fluttering pulse, with puffed eyelids, with short breath, cold limbs, and unsteady hands this morning. Now what is a nurse to do in such a case? Not cry, "Lord, bless you, sir, why you'd have thought he were a dying all night." This may be true, but it is not the way to impress with the truth a doctor, more capable of forming a judgment from the facts, if he did not know them, than you are. What he wants is not your opinion, however respectfully given, but your facts. In all diseases it is important, but in diseases which do not run a distinct and fixed course, it is not only important, it is essential that the facts the nurse alone can observe, should be accurately observed, and accurately reported to the doctor.

I must direct the nurse's attention to the extreme variation there is not infrequently in the pulse of such patients during the day. A very common case is this: Between 3 and 4 A. M., the

pulse becomes quick, perhaps 130, and so thready it is not like a pulse at all, but like a string vibrating just underneath the skin. After this the patient gets no more sleep. About mid-day the pulse has come down to 80; and though feeble and compressible, is a very respectable pulse. At night, if the patient has had a day of excitement, it is almost imperceptible. But, if the patient has had a good day, it is stronger and steadier, and not quicker than at mid-day. This is a common history of a common pulse; and others, equally varying during the day, might be given. Now, in inflammation, which may almost always be detected by the pulse, in typhoid fever, which is accompanied by the low pulse that nothing will raise, there is no such great variation. And doctors and nurses become accustomed not to look for it. The doctor indeed cannot. But the variation is in itself an important feature.

Cases like the above often "go off rather suddenly," as it is called, from some trifling ailment of a few days, which just makes up the sum of exhaustion necessary to produce death. And everybody cries, Who would have thought it! except the observing nurse. If there is one, who had always expected the exhaustion to come, from which there would be no rally, because she knew the patient had no capital in strength on which to draw, if he failed for a few days to make his barely daily income in sleep and nutrition.

I have often seen really good nurses distressed, because they could not impress the doctor with the real danger of their patient; and quite provoked because the patient "would look" either "so much better" or "so much worse" than he really is "when the doctor was there." The distress is very legitimate, but it generally arises from the nurse not having the power of laying clearly and shortly before the doctor the facts from which she derives her opinion, or from the doctor being hasty and inexperienced, and not capable of eliciting them. A man who really cares for his patients, will soon learn to ask for and appreciate the information of a nurse, who is at once a careful observer and a clear reporter.

Undoubtedly a person of no scientific knowledge whatever, but of observation and experience in these kinds of conditions, will be able to arrive at a much truer guess as to the probable duration of life of members of a family or inmates of a house, than the most scientific physician to whom the same persons are brought to have their pulse felt; no inquiry being made into their conditions.

In Life Insurance and such like societies, were they instead of having the person examined by the medical man, to have the houses, conditions, ways of life, of these persons examined, at how much truer results would they arrive! W. Smith appears a fine hale man, but it might be known that the next cholera epidemic he runs a bad chance. Mr. and Mrs. J. are a strong healthy couple, but it might be known that they live in such a house, in such a part of London, so near the river, that they will kill four-fifths of their children; which of the children will be the ones to survive might also be known.

Averages again seduce us away from minute observation. "Average mortalities" merely tell that so many per cent. die in this town and so many in that, per annum. But whether A or B will be among these, the "average rate of course does not tell. We know, say, that from

22 to 24 per 1,000 will die in London next year. But minute inquiries into conditions enable us to know that in such a district, nay, in such a street—or even on one side of that street, in such a particular house, or even on one floor of that particular house, will be the excess of mortality, that is, the person will die who ought not to have died before old age.

Now, would it not very materially alter the opinion of whoever were endeavoring to form one, if he knew that from that floor, of that house, of that street the man came.

Much more precise might be our observations even than this, and much more correct our conclusions.

It is well known that the same names may be seen constantly recurring on workhouse books for generations. That is, the persons were born and brought up, and will be born and brought up, generation after generation, in the conditions which make paupers. Death and disease are like the workhouse, they take from the same family, the same house, or in other words, the same conditions. Why will we not observe what they are?

The close observer may safely predict that such a family, whether its members marry or not, will become extinct; that such another will degenerate morally and physically. But who learns the lesson? On the contrary, it may be well known that the children die in such a house at the rate of 8 out of 10; one would think that nothing more need be said; for how could Providence speak more distinctly? yet nobody listens, the family goes on living there till it dies out, and then some other family takes it. Neither would they listen "If one rose from the dead."

In dwelling upon the vital importance of sound observation, it must never be lost sight of what observation is for. It is not for the sake of piling up miscellaneous information or curious facts, but for the sake of saving life and increasing health and comfort. The caution may seem useless, but it is quite surprising how many men (some women do it too,) practically behave as if the scientific end were the only one in view, or as if the sick body were but a reservoir for stowing medicines into, and the surgical disease only a curious case the sufferer has made for the attendant's special information. This is really no exaggeration. You think, if you suspected your patient was being poisoned, say, by a copper kettle, you would instantly, as you ought, cut off all possible connection between him and the suspected source of injury without regard to the fact that a curious mine of observation is thereby lost. But it is not everybody who does so, and it has actually been made a question of medical ethics, what should the medical man do if he suspected poisoning? The answer seems a very simple one—insist on a confidential nurse being placed with the patient, or give up the case.

And remember every nurse should be one who is to be depended upon, in other words, capable of being a "confidential" nurse. She does not know how soon she may find herself placed in such a situation; she must be no gossip, no vain talker; she should never answer questions about her sick except to those who have a right to ask them; she must, I need not say, be strictly sober and honest; but more than this, she must be a religious and devoted woman; she must have a respect for her own calling, because God's precious gift of life is often literally placed in her hands; she must be

a sound, and close, and quick observer; and she must be a woman of delicate and decent feeling.

To return to the question of what observation is for:—It would really seem as if some had considered it as its own end, as if detection, not cure, was their business; nay more, in a recent celebrated trial, three medical men, according to their own account, suspected poison, prescribed for dysentery, and left the patient to the poisoner. This is an extreme case. But in a small way, the same manner of acting falls under the cognizance of us all. How often the attendants of a case have stated that they knew perfectly well that the patient could not get well in such an air, in such a room, or under such circumstances, yet have gone on dosing him with medicine, and making no effort to remove the poison from him, or him from the poison which they knew was killing him; nay, more, have sometimes not so much as mentioned their conviction in the right quarter—that is, to the only person who could act in the matter.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

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The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 65 Wall Street, N. Y.

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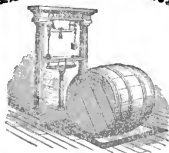
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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 1, 1864.

No. 19.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. BRONSON, 63 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

SANITARY FAIR AT DUBUQUE, IOWA:

If the value of services were measured by the extent of the sacrifice made in rendering them, it would probably be found that no State in the Union had done so much for the war as Iowa. She has sent, up to the present, nearly one-seventh of her entire population to the field. Some districts have nearly all their men in the army; and in most of them a very large proportion of the farm labor has devolved on the women; and on women, too, it must not be forgotten, whose ordinary duties are as heavy as ever, and who are entirely unused to the extraordinary ones with which they now find themselves burdened. And when it is remembered that all this is done and endured not for safety, or for independence, or gain, but for the perpetuation of the blessings of free government, or in other words, for a remote good—that it will be the future generation, rather than this one, which will reap the full benefit of these great efforts—it is doubtful if there is on record any other so splendid example of the heroism, farsightedness, and self-abnegation with which freedom long enjoyed, can gift a whole community.

After having given so many men to the ranks, it need not have excited any great surprise if a comparatively poor State like Iowa, which is still struggling with the usual difficulties of frontier life, had left to others the task of ministering to the soldiers' comfort. But so far from this, her exertions for the relief of the sick and wounded have been just as remarkable as her exertions in recruiting. Some of the incidents connected with the present fair belong to the romance of charity.

There is an amount of devotion behind

such contributions as twenty dollars from a man whose three sons, (all he has,) are in the army, "whose wife has to drive his reaper," and whose "daughters assist in binding his grain," and of more than a dollar "from every human being residing within the limits of a country away two hundred miles in the interior," of which the accounts of philanthropy do not furnish many instances; of which people living in a commercial community, where money and labor are generally plenty, can form but little idea.

Whatever the results of this war may be, this much is certain, that no community ever made such efforts and sacrifices as are recorded in the history both of our volunteering and of our Sanitary fairs without being ennobled and purified by them. And the fact that they have been so widely and freely made at the North, certainly goes far to refute the generally received notions of the debasing effect on the character of long absorption in money getting.

Mr. Norris says:

"The Northern Iowa Fair Association was organized on the 1st of March last. Gen. H. A. Wiltse, U. S. Sur.-Gen. of this District, was selected as President, who, with an efficient Board of Managers, has had the direction and control of its affairs, and who have devoted their active energies to its interests.

At the time of its organization, a resolution was adopted, pledging its proceeds to the Northwestern Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

My time during the month preceding the Fair, was devoted largely to exciting the public mind upon the subject, and preparing it for such a movement. My hopes and designs in regard to the results of the Fair, were not measured by the amount of money that would be raised by it, but I believed it could be made instrumental in reviving our work throughout the whole north half of the State; and, also, of attaching our people in their Sanitary operations to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. In all my operations for the Fair, this object was kept steadily in view. A few facts will show the extent to which my anticipations have been realized.

The shipment of hospital supplies to the Chicago Commission, which had become very light from this State, was immediately

re-stimulated, that in the month of March we sent to that Commission 202 packages. In the month of April, their receipts from us amounted to 364 packages, 136 more than from the whole State of Illinois. For May, they received from us near 700 packages, 171 more than from Illinois. I have not the figures for June; they are, I am however aware, equally large; and some 200 packages more were shipped from Dubuque after the Fair, which reached Chicago too late to be embraced in the June report. It ought to be remarked that nearly the whole of these supplies were designed to be sent to the credit of the Fair. Many of the receipts credited by the Northwestern Commission reports to local aid societies were designed by the societies to have been credited to the Fair, but they neglected to give notice to that effect at Chicago, hence they were credited to them instead of the Fair, as intended.

Four months' incessant and active toil for, and the gift of thousands of dollars to the U. S. Commission, through the Fair, have identified our aid societies and people fully with that institution. At the last meeting of the State Commission at Des Moines, the delegates to which were from nearly all the aid societies that were at work for our Fair, a resolution was almost unanimously adopted, advising all sanitary societies in the State to send their supplies to the Northwestern Branch of the U. S. Commission.

Fears have been entertained that there would be a relapse of effort on the part of our sanitary societies after the Fair was over. Every precaution has, however, been taken to prevent such a contingency, and our noble women of Iowa feel, I think, that the present is no time for relaxation of effort.

Large receipts ought not to be anticipated from us at Chicago for a month or two to come, not because labor will be suspended, but because all supplies on hand have been exhausted for the Fair, and our people will have to begin entirely anew. The business of the Fair is not entirely closed up to enable me to give you precise results. The expenses have been less in proportion to receipts, than any other of the great fairs. The receipts, it is hoped,

will reach from \$75,000 to \$80,000, and the net proceeds will not be far from \$70,000. This result seems small when compared with the results of the New York or Philadelphia Fairs, but it must be recollected our population is light, our country new, and our people generally poor. If real ability is taken into account, I am satisfied that our gift upon this holy altar will be justly regarded as greater than that of any other fair that has been held for the Sanitary cause. As was well remarked by President Wiltse, in his opening address, "No donations have been sanctified by greater sacrifices than those made to our Fair." I have been surprised by a great many facts connected with its history. Neighborhoods whose entire male population almost had gone to the war, and whose crops have to be raised and harvested by the females, have contributed largely to its funds. One farmer who gave \$20, told me that his three boys, (all he had,) were in the army, and that his wife would be compelled to drive his reaper in the harvest field, and his daughters assist in binding his grain, and in securing his harvest. Kosuth County, away two hundred miles in the interior, gave more than a dollar for every human being residing within its limits.

The Fair over, I shall extend my labors more into the southern portion of the State, though the principal towns in the northern part will require considerable attention. The history of our Fair will be published in a few days. Many items of interest omitted in this brief report will be found in it. To that history for numerous particulars, you are respectfully referred."

LATE MILITARY MOVEMENT ON ST. JOHN'S ISLAND, S. C.

Dr. Marsh reports from Beaufort, S. C., July 16:

Near the close of June, the General commanding gave us timely notice to prepare for an expedition. On the 1st July, the expedition, comprising all the available force of the Department, left Hilton Head, and on the morning of the 2d anchored in North Edisto harbor. Owing to the absence of field batteries, which an accident had detained, we were kept the entire day in an enemy's country, and not five miles from

his entrenchments. Towards evening, a brigade under Gen. Birney, unsuccessfully met the enemy entrenched, and were repulsed and returned. On the day following, (July 3d,) the brigades under Generals Saxton and Hatch, disembarked; and on that and the day following, traversed Seabrook and St. John's Islands, by different routes, and on the 5th concentrated their forces in the neighborhood of Legareville, on St. John's Island.

Capt. Low, the obliging Quartermaster at Beaufort, had assigned us transportation "to any extent desired" upon the steamer *Peconic*, and when the troops took up their march inland, we, by advice of the Commander of the expedition, Gen. Hatch, remained in harbor, as hospital ship, to which the weary, wounded, and those suffering from sun-stroke could be gathered. Medical aid not being abundant, the whole care naturally fell upon the Commission.

In the march across the two islands, the troops suffered severely—the thermometer for hours standing from 95° to 103°. More or less skirmishing constantly occurred; and whatever disabilities followed of any nature, Surgeons and Line Officers sent back to us, often with a commendatory note—those requiring our care.

On the 5th, this march having been completed, and the base of operations changed to the north part of St. John's Island, near Legareville, we were ordered to proceed to sea, and into Stono River, opposite to our forces. This was accomplished, and a portion of the accumulated sick were transported to another steamer, about midnight of the 6th.

On the morning of the 7th we constructed quarters upon shore, and through the day cared for the disabled, and assisted in erecting hospitals for wounded expected from the front. In these labors we were greatly assisted by Dr. Mudge, of the New York Engineers, professionally, and by volunteer aid from the same Engineers in pitching tents and arranging quarters. And here it is proper to remark, that on three expeditions we have experienced the generous aid of these same noble men; they seek us out, ascertain our wants, and their skill supplies every deficiency. On the evening of this day a scene was presented, that if witnessed, would have strengthened many a weary

hand, toiling for these devoted men. We had seventy-eight for whom we could find no shelter. Quickly from bales of straw, which we had brought with us, bed-sacks and pillow ticks were filled, and placed between the cotton rows, the patients put upon them, and a quilt thrown over them; each had a couch to himself. And when at sunset, our attendants passed among them, giving to each patient the kind and quality of food appropriate, one could easily believe its rays had seldom lingered upon a holier scene.

About 11 P. M. of the 7th, the wounded began to pour in from the front; and for the succeeding forty-eight hours, at which time the orders were given for re-embarking and the expedition to return to Fort Royal, every moment was incessantly employed in washing, clothing, and feeding the men, and assisting at the operating table.

On the 10th, the last of the expedition left the placid waters of the Stono; its duration brief, but terribly exhausting.

Most of the troops had never made a march, or seen a battle; others had passed months in inactivity; and all poorly prepared for a campaign in an enemy's country, over scorching sands, and an atmosphere seldom less than fever heat. The legitimate consequences followed. The Surgeons prescribed, and operated; and by tacit consent, all other duties devolved upon the Commission.

Beside medicines, and two hundred husk mattresses, the Commission furnished all; and hence the great expenditure of stores, apparently not called for by the character of the expedition.

In this connection it is due to Surgeon Benton, Chief Medical Officer, to state, that the ample stores which he had provided, from unforeseen circumstances, were not available when needed, and hence the necessity for so large a draft upon our supplies.

It affords me especial pleasure to testify in the cheerful manner in which the arduous and almost incessant labors of the employees of the Commission were performed.

For eighty-four consecutive hours, not one man among them secured, in all, eight hours' sleep. And I desire particularly to acknowledge the valuable aid rendered us

by the Quartermaster's Department on this and on all occasions. Indeed, so far as transportation is concerned, the work of the Commission would be most efficiently discharged if left entirely to this Department.

Appended is a list of issues:

3 cases beef stock,	32 galls. whisky.
3 cals milk.	3 ounces morphine.
3 cases coffee.	3 lbs. chloroform.
70 lbs. tea.	5 lbs. soap.
3 cases corn starch.	3 lbs. sponge.
15 bbls. crackers.	3 bbls. old pieces.
5 lbs. arrow root.	2 bbls. bandages.
75 lbs. chocolate.	100 quilts.
15 cases tomatoes.	50 blankets.
3 cases farina.	440 shirts.
3 cases gelatins.	475 pairs drawers.
2 boxes jelly.	450 pairs socks.
2 bbls. sugar.	475 towels.
75 lbs. ham.	600 handkerchiefs.
40 lbs. cheese.	181 pairs slippers.
5 bbls. onions.	500 pillow ticks.
20 cases pickles.	950 bed sacks.
5 galls. vinegar.	12 lanterns.
5 bbls. dry toast.	45 tin cups.
2 boxes b. brandy.	31 baskets.

Nearly all which were consumed upon the field.

DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SCORBUTICS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

We have received reports from our agents engaged in the work of distributing anti-scorbutic supplies in the army before Petersburg, as well as acknowledgments from surgeons and other officers, some extracts from which may serve to give some idea of the nature and extent of the work. Mr. Lightship, who was sent in charge of the party assigned to that duty in the Fifth Army Corps, says:

We left City Point Hospital about eight o'clock A. M., and arrived at the headquarters of the 5th Corps about ten o'clock. We visited the headquarters of the divisions, conversed with three of the generals, and ascertained their opinion of the doing of the Commission. We also visited the men in the batteries and camps. They all spoke well of the Sanitary, and thanked us for their fourth of July dinner. The men said they had received during the past ten days pickled onions, fresh onions, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, and canned meats. They all said they had received some portion of the goods that were sent to them, and that they were told when it was given them, that it was a gift from the Sanitary Commission. They all said that if they could receive some fresh vegetables every few days, they would be a great deal better fitted for fighting. They seemed pleased to see us, and kept saying, "God bless the Sanitary," and such expressions. I asked Gen. Griffin if he could give us any sug-

gestions with reference to the wants of the men in the field. He said that there was little use of sending *cond* meats to the front, as the men were well supplied with *fresh* meats, and that vegetables were a great deal better. He also recommended porter for the men. He told me if the men could receive vegetables and porter every week, that there would not be one-third of the present number sick. He also suggested, by way of a joke, that if the Commission could send out a quantity of rain, it would be a great Sanitary measure. Gen. Ayres and Gen. Hays spoke of the use of vegetables in the army, and hoped the Commission would send out more. I think that a bountiful supply should be sent out to the men as soon as possible. The old proverb, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," would prove very appropriate in their case. I think the Fifth Corps has received its share of the articles sent, and are well aware of where they came from, and seem very grateful for them. We returned in the evening, well pleased with our journey, and satisfied that vegetables sent to the army are not wasted.

The following returns of the distribution in the Fifth Corps have been received:

COMMISSARY DEPT., 4TH DIV., 5TH A. C.,
Ju y 26, 1864.

MR. J. WARNER JOHNSON,
Sanitary Commission:
CITY POINT, VA.

MY DEAR SIR—Inclosed you will please find statements from the Brig. Commissaries of the disposition made of the supplies received from the Sanitary Commission on July 1st, for distribution amongst the officers and soldiers of this Division:

The following articles were distributed to the officers and men detailed in the different departments, viz:

24 cans tomatoes, 14 cans chicken, 10 cans turkey, 12 cans mutton, 12 cans beef, 10 cans milk, 4 bottles ginger, 4 bottles blackberry brandy; part of a keg of porter was issued, and the remainder of it sent to Division Headquarters. One bottle of brandy was stolen or lost.

Yesterday I visited the front, and heard from every one great praise bestowed upon your noble Commission, as well as much gratitude expressed toward those at home who provided these luxuries.

This donation of delicacies was made most opportunely, as it afforded the soldiers a fourth of July entertainment.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
CHARLES McCLEURE,
Capt. and C. S. Fe. untlers.

CAMP NEAR PETERSBURG, VA.,
Ju y 26, 1864.

Capt. C. McCLEURE,
C. S. & A. Div. 5th A. C.

CAPTAIN—I have the honor to acknowl-

edge receipt through you of the following articles from the Sanitary Commission for distribution to the officers and men of the 2d Brigade, 4th Division, 5th A. C.

168 cans tomatoes.
74 cans chicken.
48 cans turkey.
98 cans mutton,
48 cans beef.
48 cans milk.

30 lbs. chewing tobacco.
5 lbs. smoking tobacco.
10 bottles ginger.
3 bottles blackberry brandy.
1 keg porter.

Very respectfully,

ALBERT WALKER,
Capt. and C. S. 2d Brigade, 4th Div. 5th A. C.

COM'D DEPT 1ST BRIG., 4TH DIV., 5TH CORPS,
PETERSBURG, VA., Ju y 26, 1864.

CAPTAIN—Enclosed you will find statement of distribution of Sanitary Stores sent us on the 2d inst.

The troops appear to feel very grateful, and speak in high terms of the Commission.

Very respectfully your ob't serv't,

HENRY C. HALLOWAY,
Captain and C. S.

Abstract of Issues of Sanitary Stores to Volunteers near Petersburg, Va., July 2d, 1864.

137 cans tomatoes.
58 cans chicken.
38 cans turkey.
72 cans mutton.
36 cans beef.

38 cans milk.
20 lbs. tobacco.
5 lbs. smoking tobacco.
5 galls. porter.
10 bottles ginger.

4TH DIVISION, 5TH CORPS,
Ju y 2d, 1864.

229 1½ lb. cans tomatoes.
144 2 lb. cans chickens.
96 2 lb. cans turkeys.
192 2 lb. cans mutton.
96 2 lb. cans beef.
96 1 lb. cans milk.

40 lbs. chewing tobacco.
10 lbs. smoking tobacco.
3½ bbls. porter.
2 doz. Jamaica ginger.
1 doz. blackberry brandy.

Received the above of the Sanitary Commission for issue to the officers and men of 4th Division, 5th Corps.

C. McCLEURE,
Capt. and C. S. Fe's.

Mr. Newell, who was sent on a similar duty to the 9th Corps a few days later, reports, July 9th:

I visited the head-quarters of Gen. Ledlie and Gen. Wilcox, and had a very satisfactory interview with the Division Commissary of Gen. Potter, thus obtaining information respecting the first three divisions:

1. Capt. Boyd, Corps Commissary, stated that 80 barrels of onions had been received on the 7th of July. He said, also, no barrels of potatoes, but that must be a mistake.

2. The First Division received 8 barrels of potatoes, 18 barrels of onions, 150 heads of cabbage.

3. The Second Division received 9 barrels of potatoes, 22 barrels of onions, and 200 heads of cabbage.

4. The Third Division did not receive

anything. This must have been the fault of the Division Commissary, and so I told Gen. Wilcox's Adjutant. He is now at City Point, and a new Commissary has been appointed.

The Government was issuing potatoes in about the same quantity as the Sanitary issues of onions—a potato to a man. These were 48 hours' rations. The Commissary said that he could not, as I advised, issue beets to one regiment, beans to another, &c., so as to make a good mess of some one kind for each, there would be too much grumbling. The Second Brigade Commissary said that the sauer kraut had come in sufficient quantities for the eastern regiments, but was only an aggravation to the western, accustomed to quantities of this, so that he finally sent the whole of a small ration to the latter.

Lemons are the most grateful of all gifts, as they not only prevent scurvy, &c., like onions, but are a great luxury, and cheer and refresh the men, who make them into lemonade.

Mr. Potter reports, from the same Corps, July 6th:

The following are the essential facts to be reported concerning the Sanitary supplies of anti-scorbutics sent to the Ninth Corps in the field:

The train, loaded with pickles, fresh onions and dried apples, left City Point landing at 12 M. 3d of July. The Sanitary Agents detailed to look after these supplies left later in the day, camped out near the 9th Corps headquarters that night, and reported to Gen. Burnside at 8 o'clock the next morning, July 4. The General received us very cordially, and spoke of the work of the Commission in the highest terms. He knew of the train of supplies that had been sent up the day before; the portion assigned to the 9th Corps (96 bbls.) had been delivered, and already by his Commissary sent to the different Divisions. *He spoke very strongly of the good effects which former supplies of this kind had had upon the men, and hoped the Commission would continue to send them, and even more extensively.* It had been his opinion, he said, from the first, that the sending of such articles to the soldiers in the field before they get sick, and particularly when, as now, they are so much confined to the trenches, is one of the most important ways in which the Sanitary Commission can work.

From the corps headquarters we went to the several division headquarters. In each the supplies had been received in good order, and were to be distributed to the men with their rations either for dinner or sup-

per, and everywhere they were most welcome. Both officers and men spoke of those formerly sent as just the things wanted. The tomatoes, particularly, were very acceptable, and went through the whole corps, giving a large ration to each man. One of our agents remained with each division. I went to the 1st, Gen. Ledlie's. Gen. Ledlie takes a special and personal interest in this work of the Commission, and spoke most heartily of the good it was doing. He has the supplies brought directly to headquarters, and put under the charge of his Provost Marshal, through whom they are distributed *pro rata* to the brigades and regiments. His reason for this is, *that the men may know that these articles are not supplied as regular army rations, but that they come directly from the people at home, through the Sanitary Commission;* and, he added, *that this knowledge by the men of the interest taken in their welfare by friends at home would increase the good effect of the articles.* At dinner time I went through most of the regiments in both the second and first lines of rifle pits of this division. The men were eating the pickles which had been sent from our barge at noon the day before, and they ate them with the greatest relish, and praised the good people who had sent them, and said they wished they could have some such thing every day. There was the greatest call, I think, for tomatoes and fresh onions, especially for the latter. An onion or a pickle seems a small thing to us; but it is a great thing to a man who has to lie there in those rifle pits for four days in succession, with the bullets whistling over his head, especially if he feels that it comes in some sense as a present from home. The commanding officers and surgeons all said "Send more—send as many as you can." Since these articles began to be received, only six days before, the sick report of the 1st Division of the 9th Corps had been reduced from 355 to 128, a reduction which Gen. Ledlie and his Medical Director both attributed mainly to this change of diet. Ordinarily they said they should expect sickness to increase the longer the men are in trenches. Several officers assured me that in their own cases diarrhea had been cured by eating freely of the tomatoes sent them by the Commission. And generally all that I saw myself and learned from others, during the two days I was at the front, convinced me that this new work which the Commission has undertaken of caring for the needs of the well men in the field—not waiting for them to thin the ranks on account of sickness—is one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, sanitary works of the war; and in my mind there is no doubt of the expediency of continuing and increasing it.

Mr. Leavens writes, July 5th:

We reached the front late in the evening. After losing our way and nearly upsetting the wagon, we camped for the night by the road-side. Next morning we found Gen. Burnside's headquarters, where we left two portions of our goods, one for him and one to be sent to Gen. Ferrero, of the 4th Division, (colored.) A third share we left at Gen. Potter's headquarters, 2d Division. It was given to me to remain in this Division.

My reception by Gen. Potter was very courteous. He kindly granted me the escort of a staff officer to the Brigade Headquarters, with permission to make such inquiries as my duty required. The officer who attended me also very politely showed the various objects of interest at the front.

I found our stores of pickles, onions, &c., in the hands of the Division Commissary, to be distributed during the day. Later in the day I was informed by soldiers with whom I conversed that they had received such articles. I had conversation with Gen. Potter, commanding the Division, Gen. Griffin, of the 1st Brigade, Dr. —, and many other officers and men in regard to the sanitary condition of the Division. All agreed that the Government rations were now abundant and of good quality; beef, pork, soft bread, beans, rice, &c., being named. Nothing was more needed than such articles as our stores contained, pickles, onions, &c. Almost any strong acid was much craved and needed by the men.

The Commission can do nothing that will be more grateful to the men or more cordially approved by the officers, than to send on all such articles possible. The main articles spoken of were pickles, onions, sauer kraut, and lemons. Doubtless stores of similar quality might be added.

Gen. Griffin spoke of ale as a drink, thinking it would be better than the whiskey ration.

The men at the front seemed active and healthy. The Division Hospital was nearly free from wounded. I think the Commission may rest confident that its goods reach the men, as intended, and may also have satisfaction in the wisdom and beneficence of sending forward such supplies.

VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.

Dr. Macgowan, Acting Brigade Surgeon of the Veteran Reserve Corps, also sends us the following strong testimony:

But, to the subject before me. When Gen. Grant changed his base to Port Royal, ten companies of this corps were sent from Alexandria to protect the new base. They were absent on that duty a little less than a month, during which time, their food

consisted of pork, beans, and hard tack exclusively, save on two occasions, when fresh beef was served out. The deprivation of fresh vegetables, induced, before the close of the period, incipient scurvy in the command, to the extent of twenty-five per cent. in some companies, and forty per cent. in others. Spongy gums were so prevalent as to indicate that the deprivation if continued a little longer, would have rendered one-half the force wholly unfit for duty.

On their return I made a requisition for lemons, pickles, and such vegetables as were on hand at your agency here, which was instantly complied with, and which afforded timely relief. These men recuperated in part by your bounty, have again deserved well of the country, by aiding to drive the rebels from the threshold of the Capitol.

It must be borne in mind that this prevalence of scurvy, so excessive, and of such rapid development, was among men who had been more or less disabled by wounds or disease before they had earned a place in this American Legion of Honor. Some of them had suffered from scorbutic affections in Tennessee and at White House; they were on duty every other day, and often several days in succession. Consequently, this statement is presented, not as a criterion whereby to gauge the needs and dangers of our armies in this regard, but to show that your prophylactic labors are called for, and to apprise a generous public of the fact. So long as our "boys" have the assurance that they are supported in good faith by the nation, they will not grow weary of battling for the Republic, even if the conflict should be carried into the next century.

Vegetables and other anti-scorbutic articles are still daily issued in large quantities to the Army, outside of the regular issues to Hospitals, and the acknowledgments from surgeons, officers and privates, indicating how highly they are appreciated and how beneficial are their effects, are as regularly received.

It being impossible to get a statement in full of issues for current month, before going to press, we repeat the list published in last number of BULLETIN, adding a letter from Dr. Douglas, explaining manner of distribution, and one from the correspondent of the New York Times relative to this part of the Commission's work.

Anti-scorbutics forwarded during the month of June:

207,154 lbs. canned tomatoes, (over 100 tons.)	85,273 galls. pickled cucumbers, (about 1,200 bbls.)
15,940 lbs. canned fruit.	13,354 galls. pickled onions.
874 cases " jellies.	4,719 tomatoes.

1,106 galls. curried cabbage.	32 bbls. other dried fruit.
16,218 galls. sour kraut.	301 boxes lemons.
180 bbls. fresh onions.	3,400 boxes portable lemon-
70 bbls. potatoes.	adn.
242 bbls. dried apples.	25 boxes oranges.

CITY POINT, Ju'y 20.

DR. N. C. STEVENS,

DEAR SIR—I propose to make the next issue to 9th Corps, and shall be prepared, I think, to-morrow. I have on hand of

Pickled Cucumbers, 200 barrels.

" Onions, 150 "

Potatoes, 100 "

If a barrel of pickled cucumbers will suffice 500 men, 50 barrels will certainly give a good ration to every man in the 9th Corps; the same of pickled onions. Of potatoes, the Army ration is 3 barrels to 100 men. Our barrels will weigh about 130 lbs.

If I send you of potatoes 75 bbls., you will have about 10,000 lbs. of potatoes, which will give you a good ration.

Say then—50 bbls. Cucumbers, pickled.

50 " Onions, "

75 " Potatoes, fresh.

Total, 175 bbls.

It will require twenty-five wagons to take them to the front. Please procure them, and telegraph me when they are on the way.

Yours, &c.,

J. H. DOUGLAS, M.D.

The *New York Times* correspondent, writing from camp, July 20, says:

The pathetic note from George Rodgers, of Sheridan's cavalry, printed in last *Sunday's Times*, has attracted my attention. It is evident that he and his comrades have been "shared out" in the general distribution of onions. That the savory anti-scorbutics did not come their way is certain to be regretted, and without stopping to inquire who was guilty of the oversight, I must correct the false impression this complaint has doubtless left upon the minds of many who read it. I can do this without much trouble, and the kind-hearted public who have subscribed so generously for the purchase of the vegetables, and the little children, who sacrificed their pyrotechnic pleasures on the Fourth of July, for the same worthy object, will be glad to know that their bounty was not misapplied. The Sanitary Commission has been the faithful agent in the distribution. For this assertion I have read the proof in handsome notes of acknowledgment from Major-Generals Warren, Smith, Barnside, and a half score more of Division and Brigade Commanders. Quantities of vegetables arrived at City Point about the 2d of July, and through the cheerful exertions of Dr. J. H. Douglas, the Assistant Secretary of the Commission; Drs. Macdonald, Stevens and Swalm, Inspectors; Mr. Anderson, the transportation agent, and the other employees, without

any exception, the onions were apportioned and delivered to the Division Commissaries of the respective corps, in time to make part of the Fourth of July dinner.

The Army of the Potomac received 514 barrels.

The Eighteenth Corps received 102 barrels.

The Tenth Corps received 107 barrels.

Wilson's Cavalry division received 12 barrels.

The aggregate number of barrels distributed for that occasion was 743.

On the 6th of July another distribution of 1,153 barrels was made under the direction of Lieut. Col. Morgan, Chief Commissary of the armies in the field.

Since that date there have been very large supplies received, not only onions, but of potatoes, cabbage, green and dried apples, canned tomatoes and pickles, all of which have been distributed among the men in the camps and trenches, and the patients in the hospitals. The figures show that for the eighteen days, beginning July 1, the Commission distributed 3,353 barrels of potatoes, 2,719 barrels of onions, 1,448 barrels of pickles, 865 barrels of assorted vegetables, 141 barrels of dried apples, — barrels of green apples, and still have a quantity of the less perishable stores on hand to be disposed of among the various corps.

From a personal investigation, I am able to say that the soldiers appreciate to the full extent the thoughtfulness of their friends, and from a hygienic point of view, the advantages of this liberal supply of fresh vegetables, is incalculable. Sheridan's cavalry are the only men in all the army from whom there has been heard a whisper of complaint, and that they were overlooked in the distribution, was not the desire, as I am certain it was not the fault, of the agents of the Commission. The failure, if traced to its causes, would be found to rest upon the Commissary Department of that organization; or, still more probable, in the miscarriage of the notification to send for the portion assigned for the cavalry.

For a very good reason, the Sanitary Commission at present will send no more vegetables to the army, the Government having a sufficient supply on hand to hold out until the end of this month. After the first of August, however, the Commissaries will no longer issue a ration of fresh vegetables to the soldiers; and, by an order of the War Department, a very general reduction of the entire schedule of rations is to take place from that date. The amount thus far issued during the war has been proved from actual experience to have been extravagantly large—far larger than the men could consume. Now the soldiers, in lieu of the curtailed rations, are to receive \$16 per month, instead of \$13 as heretofore.

The items of potatoes, molasses and, optionally, rice or beans, are to be altogether cut off, and the ration of flour or bread is to be reduced from twenty-two to eighteen ounces per diem. Here then is the opportunity for exercise by the public of a commendable generosity. Let the people promptly step in with their munificent offerings to supply what the Government will not. If fresh vegetables are so highly appreciated now, when an occasional and limited quantity is furnished by the Commissariat Department, will not the appreciation be immeasurably greater under the new order of matters next month? The people have only to understand these things, and feel confident that their gifts are properly applied, to insure no lack of these coveted and health-sustaining articles of diet. These vegetables must be furnished to the soldiers, and the Sanitary Commission will doubtless in some way see to that; but how can it add this immense tax upon its means without retrenching its disbursements in other directions? It is the privilege of friends at home to ameliorate by every method the hardships endured by their brave defenders in the field, and the past gives ample proof that they will not fail to exercise it with enthusiasm.

WORK OF RELIEF IN GRANT'S ARMY.

Mr. Smith reports from City Point, June 22:

I have the honor to submit the following report of my work in the field since leaving Washington for Belle Plain, May 11, 1864:

Finding that there was much to do for every one desirous of alleviating the wants and sufferings of our wounded men, I felt that the severity of the storm could offer no excuse for my delay in doing all in my power to comfort them. I found many of our men quite badly wounded, lying by the road side in the mud and rain, without rubber or woollen blankets to protect them. Many, who were more seriously wounded, I discovered lying in army wagons in bad condition, as nearly all had been cooped up in them for from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, and had been carried over very rough roads, in very uncomfortable positions, for a distance of twenty-five miles, without once having had the primary dressings of their wounds removed, or wet oftener than twice since starting on their journey. The bandages were found very much displaced and soiled, and in consequence there was much suffering from the heat and painfulness of wounds. It was my work to relieve these men, as well as I was able, by changing the positions in which their wounded and wearied limbs had been lying for many hours, and to dress and wet such wounds

as seemed to have been longest neglected, and gave rise to most suffering. All I met with were bearing their fate with indescribable calmness and fortitude.

Coffee, tea, and crackers were freely distributed by the agents of the Commission, whose headquarters were established at a point favorably located for the work.

The wounds, as far as my observations extended, were generally doing remarkably well.

In the afternoon of May 12th, I found in one wagon, Lieut. ———, 20th Massachusetts Volunteers, who was shot by guerrillas, while lying in the wagon on his way to Belle Plain. He was in a critical condition, having been wounded at the front in an engagement, and being on his way to hospital when he was shot again. This, to me, was a heart rending case; the former wound* not being fatal, and honorably received, while the latter would without doubt cost him his life. I gave him some wine and soft crackers, and ordered some beef tea, and dressed his wounds. Same day I went to ambulance park of 5th and 9th Corps, with Dr. E. Harris. Here I found 600 men seriously wounded, many having had their limbs amputated.

The same supplies, in kind, were given to wounded of 5th Corps. All these men were in a very destitute condition, and the surgeons of the 5th Corps, and the steward of 9th, said the men must have suffered much for want of food, but for the timely arrival of our stores. The wounded in 9th Corps told me they had received no food, of substantial character, in thirty-six hours previous to my visit, and that their wounds had remained unlooked at for forty-eight hours. These men and their wounds and stumps were in bad condition in all respects; and thus they would be compelled, probably to lie eighteen hours longer before they could reach the wharf and the transports. I left bandages, lint, and adhesive plaster, also, for their use.

On May 13th I started on foot, in mud and rain, for Fredericksburg, and after going some distance fell in with Mr. Holbrook, who kindly offered me his horse for part of my journey. When about half way to the city, met several large squads of rebel prisoners. This evidence of our success brought much cheerfulness and apparent satisfaction to our men, both those who were trudging along with moderately severe wounds, and those on their way to the "front," who seemed now to be over-anxious to push along with alacrity. Arrived in city at 2½ P. M., pretty well drenched with rain. Reported to Dr. Dalton, at your request. He assigned me to

* Compound fracture of lower jaw.

duty in charge of two hospitals of 1st Div. of 6th Corps. I commenced work in the hospitals by dressing, that evening, such wounds as imperatively needed attention, and ordering from the storehouse of the Commission such supplies and articles as I felt would make my men comfortable. There were in the hospital 106 men—of these, 69 were slightly wounded, and 37 very seriously. The following morning dressing of all the wounded by myself had been entered upon, and I worked hard from 8½ A. M. till nearly 2½ P. M. This having been done, I was well satisfied with the condition of all the wounded, and of the cases which it was necessary I should personally attend to daily; the others being turned over to dressers and nurses. By this plan I saved much time, and in course of three or four days all was going on so nicely that one-half of the afternoon of each day was spent in dressing the wounds of men, who were to be found lying on nearly every street corner, without having had their wounds attended to from forty-eight to seventy-two hours. Many poor fellows were crowded into damp, dark, ill ventilated stores, of which there are a great number in the city. These men frequently were found suffering much from long lying in one position, or from hunger or thirst, or painfulness of their wounds. In the half afternoons which I spent in going around looking after the wants of these neglected cases, and in relieving them, I am conscious of having done much good in the name of the Sanitary Commission.

Soon after our arrival at Port Royal I went ashore, and inquired into the condition and needs of the wounded. Found most were lying in army wagons, parked about the supply depot of the Sanitary Commission, which had been established at this point before our advent. All the wounded with whom I conversed acknowledged they had enough to eat, and more; and expressed much gratitude towards the Sanitary Commission for the prompt manner in which its agents had come to their relief. Part of the materials of which the food was prepared were, I believe, furnished us by the Army Medical Department, under Dr. Cuyler, but the preparation and distribution were done by the agents of the Commission. These labors here were highly appreciated by our soldiers.

One of the most gratifying features of the Commission's work at this point was the interment of the dead, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Holstein, in a manner so orderly, respectful and solemn, that it attracted the attention of all, and elicited many expressions of gratitude, satisfaction and reverence, from the witnesses of these unpretending scenes of loyal devotion. No more imposing obsequies have

I ever observed, and never have I experienced a more uncontrollable thrill of solemnity, than when I saw the bodies of our men, shrouded in their blankets, lowered into graves, unseen by friends and unknown to those whose loyal hearts urged them to this last and but sanctifying duty. When I last visited the grounds there had been twenty-three interments. The graves were tastefully arranged in rows, and to each was a head-board, on which was inscribed the name, rank, company, regiment, and date of death of the deceased.

From Port Royal I accompanied the party to White House, which landing we reached in the afternoon of May 29th. There had been no considerable number of troops at this point until about two hours previous to our arrival. I was soon assigned to duty on shore. For several days I made it my business to look to the wants of our wounded and supply them, or direct such as were able where to find what they wanted. One long train of badly wounded men, numbering about 1,500, came in June 2d. I visited nearly all the ambulances, and asked the occupants if they had been fed, and had received coffee or beef-tea, &c. In every instance the reply was "Yes, the Sanitary men gave us something to eat," or words conveying the same meaning.

Up to June 4th I continued doing such work as came within my sphere, and in the doing of which benefit accrued to our sick and wounded men. My work for several days previous to this date was not done with the alacrity it demanded, for the reason that I did not feel well. The *malaise*, previously experienced, seemed to have culminated on afternoon of June 4th, and a severe attack of dysentery was the consequence. From this date till June 12th I was wholly unfit for any service, and then I should have declined work had not Dr. Fairchild been suddenly taken ill and started for Washington. I then succeeded him in duty on our boats, in which capacity I have remained up to present date.

The following extracts from Superintendent Harris's report, may serve to illustrate the difficulties of transportation with which the Field Relief Corps of the Commission have to contend in following the Army with supplies:

FROM BELLE PLAIN TO WHITE HOUSE.

On May 23d, Mr. John A. Anderson, Acting Associate Secretary in charge of the work of the Commission at Belle Plain, on the Potomac, at that time the base of supplies for the Army of the Potomac, placed me in charge of the land transportation of the Commission, then consisting of thirty-two four-horse wagons, exclusive of those at front, with instructions to exercise my

own judgment about conducting the train to the next base, which would probably be Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, twenty miles below Fredericksburg. The same day I received the following telegram from Mr. Knapp, dated Washington:—"Send the loaded wagons to Fredericksburg. Use your own judgment about the others; but supply Fredericksburg if you can."

All the wagons were loaded, and at 6.30 P. M., the train started in charge of Clark Emmons, wagon master, with orders to halt for the night at White Oak Church. In the morning the feeding station there, in charge of Mr. Doolittle, was broken up, the goods put in the wagons, and the train started for Fredericksburg, where I reported to Dr. Douglas, Associate Secretary, at 10 A. M.

The Post Quartermaster, Captain Stone, being in want of teams to move the wounded to the station at Falmouth, the Government horses being exhausted by the work put upon them, made a request for twenty-five of the Commissions' teams, which was granted by Dr. Douglas. These teams were engaged all night, making several trips from the various hospitals in the town to Falmouth.

The next day, (25th,) a similar request was made for ten teams, which was also granted by Dr. Douglas. These were at work all day and night, the Commission drivers remaining with their own teams, refusing, although nearly exhausted, to let strange men drive.

On the 26th, the Sanitary Commission steamer Kent arrived from Port Royal, in charge of Mr. Williams, and reported the other boats of the Commission at that place.

On the 27th a force was sent out to the Wilderness, to attempt the recovery of some of our wounded, abandoned there several days previously, and then in the hands of the enemy. A train of ambulances accompanied the expedition, to which was added a Commission four-horse wagon loaded with soft crackers, milk and stimulants, in charge of Mr. Wilcox, agent of the second Corps.

The wounded were recovered and brought in, the stores being distributed to them on the road.

On the 28th, Fredericksburg was abandoned by our forces. Leaving at 5 A. M., we arrived at Port Royal shortly after dark, and reported to Dr. Douglas. Before starting in the morning, Dr. ——— informed me that his brother, who was recovering from the small pox, had been left in one of the houses in town, and that he was unable to get him in an ambulance or on board the hospital boat, and that unless I could carry him in one of the wagons he would be left behind.

I had him placed in a spring wagon, and

made him as comfortable as possible, and the next morning had the satisfaction of seeing him placed on board a boat bound for Washington.

The next day, (Sunday 29th,) the boats of the Commission left for White House, to which place the base of supplies was being changed. The wagons were loaded with a few additional sacks of grain each, and preparations made for starting the following morning. At 2 A. M., Monday, the train was in readiness to start, but having received permission from the Quartermaster, Capt. Blood, to ship a portion of the goods on a Government boat, I sent sixteen wagons to the river which were unloaded, with the exception of a few cases of underclothing, shoes, articles of diet and stimulants, and the goods placed in charge of William S. M. Glazier, agent of the Commission in the 6th Corps.

Having reloaded the wagons with forage, an effort was made to overtake the balance of the train, which had a start of about an hour. On reaching the picket-line the officer in charge refused to allow the train to pass, considering the danger too great. Consequently, we returned to camp to wait for the next escort.

The next day the place was evacuated by our forces. The train, consisting of about one hundred and fifty wagons, and guarded by a brigade of infantry and several regiments of cavalry, was in motion at 3 A. M., and we were at last on the road to White House. When about six miles from Port Royal we came across the remains of a train which had been attacked two nights previously by guerrillas. A number of wagons had been burned, while a few remained uninjured. Half a dozen dead mules were lying around, while a few others were quietly cropping the grass. The most horrible sight was three of our men lying on the ground dead—one with his head split open with an axe—to all appearances brutally murdered. Scouts were immediately sent out, and shortly returned bringing a man whom they found at a house near by.

At first he denied having had anything to do with the attack. After being questioned closely, however, he admitted that he was aware of the intentions of the party which made the attack, but had no power to prevent it. Five minutes were allowed him to prepare for death, which had the effect of bringing out his political sentiments. The moments of grace were spent in cursing the "Yanks." Seven balls through his breast soon sent him to account for it before a higher tribunal.

Thursday, June 2.—Reveille at 1 A. M. On the march at daylight. Reached the bank of the North Anna by 9, and crossed at 11 o'clock. At 2 P. M., arrived at Han-

over Court House, having traveled several miles off the direct road, being led by a guide whose proclivities were a little of the "secesh order," and who could not resist the temptation of leading the train where it would stand a fair chance of being captured. The plan was discovered in time, and the man properly taken care of.

At Hanover Court House were stationed the cavalry pickets on the extreme right of Gen. Grant's Army, which caused us to feel that we were near our journey's end. Parking the train, the teams were fed, and preparations were made for passing the night comfortably, with a heavy rain pouring down. At 6 P. M., however, such happy thoughts were dispelled, by the order to "hitch-up immediately." In a great hurry the train was put in motion, which continued through the night, the teams being driven on a trot wherever the condition of the road allowed it. At daylight, halted three miles from Old Church, and remained in park a few hours, when the firing being rather too near, a move was made towards the rear for about a mile, where we were out of range. The fighting continued all day, during which I issued to various surgeons the goods remaining in the wagons.

Saturday, June 14th.—Ten miles from White House. At 9 A. M. started, and on the road all day, arriving at dark, when I reported to Dr. Douglas.

The balance of the train arrived two days before, having come down the north bank of the Pamunkey, a much shorter route than that by which we came.

Everything in the train was in good order, owing to the efficiency of the Wagon Master, Clarke Emmons.

FROM WHITE HOUSE TO CITY POINT.

After the arrival of the Commission train at White House, the wagons were engaged in hauling stores to the front to supply the various hospitals and the wagons in the Field Relief Corps.

On the 19th ultimo, there were remaining at White House sixteen four-horse wagons—the balance of the train having been sent to the front several days previous, with orders to follow the army across the Peninsula to the new base, wherever it might be. The boats of the Commission left a week previous, and I was waiting the first opportunity to start with the remaining wagons.

Having been assigned a position in the Cavalry Corp's train, I drew the wagons in their proper place, and with others, patiently waited the return of Gen. Sherman's command, which was on a raid in the direction of Staunton, and which was to escort the train. On Sunday, (19th ultimo,) he was reported to have arrived at Dunkirk,

eighteen miles north of White House, and was expected in the next day.

Monday morning, shortly after daylight, the entire camp was aroused by volleys of mucketry and cannonading, but a heavy mist prevented anything being seen beyond a few rods.

Riding out to the outer line of intrenchments, I found the troops in line expecting an attack. The enemy had driven in the pickets, wounding one and capturing several. Returning to camp, I found that no orders had as yet been received; but in view of a sudden move, I had the teams watered and everything packed ready to be loaded. At 6.30 A. M., orders were received to hitch-up, and move the train across the river over the railroad bridge. After remaining there a few minutes watching the enemy, who appeared to be very busy about something, we saw their artillery run out from the woods and unlimbered. Immediately they opened fire from six guns, posted by sections in three different places, paying their compliments to the train which was huddled together on the open plain, presenting a beautiful mark.

While here fourteen shells passed through the train, only two of which took effect, one striking a team horse and killing him; and the other passing through a wagon and out by the driver, doing no damage.

None of the men were injured, although several had narrow escapes.

By one o'clock the entire train was over the river in a place of safety, and the firing nearly ceased, the enemy having lost a caisson, and apparently had rather the worst of the fight.

Sheridan's command arrived during the afternoon and attacked the rebels, and by night succeeded in driving them beyond Tunstall's Station, on the Richmond and York River Railroad.

The following day the wounded of the cavalry began to arrive. Mrs. Husband and Miss Hancock, of Philadelphia, immediately began to prepare food for them. Happily we were able to supply them with plenty of crackers, milk, stimulants, and canned meats. For several days previous to this these two ladies had nursed and fed some twenty or thirty sick in the 13th Ohio cavalry.

In feeding these men our own rations were used, so that we were compelled to draw from the commissary.

On the 22d the train re-crossed the river, and remained near the landing until 12 o'clock, (midnight,) when the entire command began to move. The train, consisting of 860 wagons, stretched out along the road for eight or nine miles, and required nearly four hours for all of it to get in motion, consequently, as the Commission train brought up the rear, it did not start

until daylight. Reaching New Kent Court House about noon, a short halt was made to feed and rest. At 2 P. M., the march was resumed, and continued to the Chickahominy, which was crossed at Jones' Bridge.

The train parked for the night on the south bank of the river, with plenty of wood and water near at hand.

The advance had considerable skirmishing this day with the enemy, in which the 28th colored regiment behaved well for their first fight, charging and driving the rebels.

Thursday, 23d.—The order of march was to Charles City Court House, then on the river road, via Westover Church and Shirley to Haxall's, on the James. The train was in motion at 2 A. M., and marched about five miles, when a halt was ordered, which continued several hours, until the road could be cleared of the enemy, who was making strenuous efforts to cut and capture the train.

After six hours we started again, passing through Charles City Court House and along the river road, but the enemy finally compelled the train to haul in close to the river at a place called Wilcox's Landing, where preparations were made for passing the night. That night I sent a note by a tug going up, to Dr. Douglas, announcing our safe arrival.

Before the men had finished supper, orders were received to hitch up and get out of that place as soon as possible. Marching down the river by the road we came, and bearing to the right at Charles City Court House. Morning found us at a place called Wyanoke.

The fighting of yesterday was very heavy, and our loss considerable, especially in Gregg's command.

At Wyanoke, boats were in readiness to ferry the wagons across the river. The Commission train was the first to cross. On the south bank were two canal boats, over which the horses and wagons had to be landed. The drivers went to work with a will, and in an hour's time built a substantial bridge, by which the train was safely put ashore.

The heat that day was intense, and three of the teamsters were overcome by the effects of the sun, but soon recovered.

Selecting a good camping ground, we made preparations to stay a few days, provided the rebels did not interfere, which we could not have offered much opposition to, as not one man had been sent over to guard the wagons. The same afternoon Mr. Anderson came down on the tug Curtin, bringing a supply of rations for the men, and of stores for the wounded in the hospitals on the other side of the river.

The next day, (Sunday,) Dr. Douglas came down on the propeller Thompson,

and proposed sending down boats the next day to carry the horses and wagons up to City Point, deeming it unsafe to attempt to go up the road without a guard. It was necessary to have the wagons at City Point as soon as possible, to haul to the front stores which were rapidly accumulating there.

Ascertaining from contrabands in the vicinity that no rebels had been seen around there for several days, and supposing there were none there, from the fact of their not showing themselves when twenty of them could have captured the train, I concluded to start in the morning and take the chances. There were two Government wagons waiting to go through with the mail. Joining with them we raised quite a formidable party—and at daybreak on Monday started, and arrived at City Point at 8.30 A. M., without any adventure.

To Messrs. Doolittle, Davis, and Oscar Little, I am much indebted for the kind assistance they have rendered on the march.

SPECIAL RELIEF—HOMES AND LODGES.

WASHINGTON.

Mr. Abbott reports of the work accomplished at the Special Relief Office at Washington, and the Homes and Lodges under his supervision, for the quarter ending June 30th, 1864:

SPECIAL RELIEF OFFICE.

Discharged Soldiers.

Number of discharged soldiers whose papers have been received and acted upon	447
Number of cases adjusted and applicants paid	326
Amount collected for the three hundred and twenty six applicants	\$43,937.30

BACK PAY.

Number of applications from men in hospitals for aid in obtaining the back pay due them	670
Number of certificates secured for back pay	657
Amount secured on certificates	\$25,107.48

NAVAL CLAIMS.

Number of naval claims filed	63
Number adjusted	43
Amount collected on naval claims	\$ 5,523.01
Total amount collected for the quarter, through the agency of the office . .	\$76,591.11
Number of drafts secured and forwarded . .	154
Amount of the 154 drafts	\$13,964.96

The number who are availing themselves of this privilege, afforded by the Commission, of sending their money home by drafts, thus saving them the risk of losing or having it swin-

dled from them, is increasing. During the last month the number is nearly twice as great as any month previous.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Number of letters written in adjusting the cases acted upon, of sufficient importance to make a copy necessary.....1,665

A large number have been written, of which no copy has been taken.

PENSION OFFICE.

Number of pension claims filed..... 357

Number of claims for arrears of pay and bounty..... 47

Claims for pensions completed and allowed 189

Claims for arrears of pay and bounty allowed..... 6

Claims for pensions rejected..... 61

Number of letters written in full in adjusting the above cases..... 476

Blanks filled..... 689

Whole number of letters.....1,165

THE HOME.

The report of Mr. P. J. McHenry, Assistant Superintendent, shows the amount of work accomplished at the Home, for the last quarter, to be as follows:

Whole number admitted..... 2,692

Number of lodgings furnished..... 7,767

Number of meals furnished.....18,190

HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES AND MOTHERS.

Number admitted..... 444

Women..... 333

Children..... 111

Number of meals furnished for May and June.....2,797

Number of lodgings furnished for May and June.....1,017

LODGE No. 4.

Number of meals furnished to soldiers and ambulance drivers.....20,510

Number of lodgings..... 4,706

Mr. John Kane, Superintendent of the Lodge since July 10, 1863, was discharged on the 23d of June, for disloyal utterances. His services and management of the Lodge were entirely satisfactory, but his sentiments were altogether too rebellious to be tolerated during the last few weeks of his services.

Mr. John Savall was placed temporarily in charge, and thus far I am well pleased with his management of the Lodge.

LODGE No. 5.

The work of this Lodge has been principally the furnishing of food, coffee, lemonade, and

stimulants to the sick and wounded, arriving on the cars and hospital boats and transports, and while waiting to be removed to General Hospital. Not less than seventy or eighty barrels of crackers, and from six to eight thousand gallons of coffee, chocolate, lemonade and stimulants have been distributed to the sick and wounded from this Lodge.

ALEXANDRIA LODGE.

The importance of this Lodge has greatly diminished since the army moved its base of supplies from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. However, its records will show that more than 20,000 soldiers, sick and wounded, have been provided with food and drinks from this Lodge, and more than 1,000 lodged during the last quarter.

The wounded that have been brought up on the hospital boats and transports, and sent into the general hospital of Alexandria, have all been provided with food and stimulants from this Lodge, whenever they have required them.

HOME FOR INVALID SOLDIERS, BALTIMORE.

This Home has not been in operation two months, yet its record shows the following amount of work accomplished since it was opened:

Number of soldiers admitted... 32

Number of soldiers wives admitted..... 30

Number of refugees admitted..... 27

Total..... 89

Number of meals furnished.....615

Number of lodgings furnished.....187

Number furnished Government transportation 23

Number furnished transportation by the

Commission..... 19

The Home is situated at No. 62 Conway Street, near the Camden station; a convenient two-story brick house, well arranged for the work, for which a rent of \$350 per year is to be paid. It has accommodations for about fifty persons.

The number of meals furnished at the Homes and Lodges in this city, Alexandria and Baltimore, during the last quarter, of which a record has been kept, was 42,112; number of lodgings, 14,677. The number of meals does not include the thousands that have been fed at the railroad stations and boat landings in this city and Alexandria, while waiting to be removed to General Hospitals.

This report of the operations of the Special Relief Office and the several Homes and Lodges, is far from being complete. There are thousands of little acts of kindness, relief and aid

furnished which really make up the best part of the special relief work, that it is impossible to enter into our record, and consequently the most interesting portion of the work is never exhibited in a report.

In conclusion, it is a pleasant duty to bear testimony to the faithfulness and zeal of my associates in the work of special relief, in the performance of their duty, and also the uniform kindness with which we have been treated by the officers and clerks in the various departments of the Government, and all others with whom our business has brought us in contact.

HOME HOSPITAL.

Surgeon Nichols reports of the Home Hospital under his charge for the month of June, 1864:

Cases treated	183
Different diseases	18
States represented	17
Deaths	2
Visits to Soldiers' Rest	10
Outside prescriptions	60
Wounds dressed	509

NEW ORLEANS.

Mr. Bullard reports:

The Soldiers' Home has been eminently successful during the past month, and its utility has manifested itself with unusual force at this particular season, when, on account of the advancing hot weather, many men were being furloughed and discharged from the different sections of the Department, of course daily gathering in New Orleans, to secure their pay and transportation. It is painful to think of the suffering that must have resulted from the entire absence of any such source of relief in this city last summer. Our experience this year is an index, in a degree, of what must have been last year; and probably the active campaign towards and at Port Hudson last year brought a large number of men to this city, who found neither Soldiers' Home nor other source of relief, in a community for the most part literally *secesh*.

The various movements of the army within the last few weeks, the apparent necessity to furlough or discharge many from the large numbers of men already broken down by disease in this trying climate, and the recent interruptions in the usual means of transportation, resulting from the seizure of boats for military purposes, have so crowded the Home that I found it necessary to enlarge the means of accommodation. More particularly the hospital ward was found insufficient. Some of the furloughed and discharged men from the regi-

ments were hardly able to reach the city, and in many cases they have been compelled to remain with us several days, waiting for pay or transportation. The only apparent remedy seemed to be to hire the building between the Soldiers' Home and our office. This additional building costs the Commission \$30 per month.

The expenses of the Home have been larger the past month than usual. We have had more men to care for, and there have been more sick on our hands than during any month heretofore. Mr. Weaver and all the employees have worked faithfully, and have done themselves credit by their ready efforts to help the sick and needy. Our faithful little matron, Miss James, has been untiring in her attention to the sick, and many a poor fellow has left the Home, blessing her for her kindness.

It may be necessary to modify operations in the matter of exchanging certain rations, which heretofore have helped reduce the expenses of the Home.

I enclose Mr. Weaver's report. It speaks for itself, and shows a good month's record.

The whole amount of rations bought and issued to the men going home, via Cairo and New York, in June, is \$598.63; of this amount, \$501.65 was refunded by those having money. About thirty men, who were destitute, have been furnished with similar rations, at a cost of \$97 to the special relief fund. Some of these cases were sick furloughed men, who could not eat the coarse Government rations usually drawn on furloughs. I think these funds have been well and charitably invested.

In the office work of the special relief individual cases of advice and assistance, aside from mere collection of pay, are constantly increasing. Much that is perplexing and unpleasant helps fill the daily office experience. Enough success crowns our efforts to bring increasing numbers of applicants.

During the month 165 cases have passed through the office for collection of pay. Amount collected, \$26,643.10.

During the month of June the number of admissions has been 968; of meals furnished, 5,713; of lodgings, 17,193. Amount of money deposited for safe keeping, \$22,396.48.

MEMPHIS.

During the month ending July 3d the number of admissions has been 1,592; of meals furnished, 3,894; of lodgings, 918; the amount of pay collected and paid over, \$832.33.

NASHVILLE.

During the month ending July 2d the number of admissions has been 3,204; of meals fur-

nished, 9,921; of lodgings, 3,413. Transportation has been procured for 2,492; and the amount of pay collected and paid over has been \$2,668.48.

CAIRO.

During the month ending June 27 the number of admissions has been 6,696; of meals furnished, 14,046; of lodgings, 3,338; and transportation has been furnished for 289.

DETROIT.

11,885 meals and 4,704 lodgings have been furnished.

THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS.

Rev. J. P. Thompson, of New York, having lately returned from a visit to General Sherman's army, as a delegate of the Christian Commission, has written for the *Congregationalist* several articles, giving an account of his experience at the front. Dr. Thompson had very favorable opportunities for seeing the methods and working of both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, although his stay was short. He was present at the battle of Resaca, and had much to do in alleviating the sufferings of the wounded, and in soothing the spirits of the dying. He was in many hospitals all the way from Louisville down, and saw and helped with his words of good cheer many sick and discouraged soldiers.

Dr. Thompson's opinions are so widely and so highly valued, that the following extract from one of his communications to the *Congregationalist* will be read with interest by all the friends of the soldiers who wish them to receive the largest benefit possible from the efforts made in their behalf. Dr. Thompson says of the two Commissions:

Our personal observation, and an extensive comparison of views with those most competent to judge, have convinced us that some arrangement must be made at headquarters of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, to ensure their harmonious working upon the field. In the West this harmony already exists to a commendable degree. It is favored by the leading minds of both Commissions, and is practically hindered only by the incompetent or ill-advised subordinates of either.

A few simple facts and principles in this matter are so obvious, that the public will insist upon their being regarded by the two Commissions.

1. The work of the Sanitary Commission is indispensable to the best physical condition of the army, and to the prompt succor and relief of the wounded.

2. Its purely humane object enables it to appeal to the widest range of sympathies, and to draw from the amplest field of resources.

3. Its thorough systemization enables it to act with a high degree of efficiency, and with a small percentage of waste.

4. Its principle of distribution, through the official requisition of the medical direction of the army, with a limited discretion of personal distribution by its agents, is obviously the sound principle, and secures to this Commission the proper facilities for access to the army.

5. The composition of the Commission is a guaranty against either sectarianism or irreligion in its prevailing tone. That some members of the Commission may have sought to give it a sectarian bias is possible; that some of its agents have been men of irreligious character is true; but these are evils that can and will be rectified by the Commission itself under the healthy action of public opinion.

6. The Christian Commission is of incalculable importance to the moral and spiritual welfare of the army. It can hardly be over-estimated. For its long winter ministrations when the army is in quarters, and for its steady work in hospitals, as also for the general superintendence of a department, it should have men of wisdom and experience, who will devote their time to the work for months and even for years. Such men are the Rev. E. P. Smith at Nashville, and his worthy coadjutor, Mr. Ewing. Some, however, have been employed in this work who had nothing to recommend them but religious zeal. The special ministration of the Commission when the army is in an active campaign, opens a field for temporary agents, and especially for pastors, who know how to deal with the souls of men, under every variety of experience.

7. To further their spiritual ministrations, the agents of the Christian Commission should be furnished with sanitary stores, and should be able to contribute to the physical comfort of the soldiers upon equal terms with the agents of the Sanitary Commission.

8. But in order to do this, it is not necessary that there should be two sets of warehouses, two systems of transportation, two distributing agencies over all the army field, nor that the Christian Commission should enter into competition with the Sanitary Commission in raising material stores for the army. A compact can be made between the two Commissions by which the agents of the Christian Commission shall draw supplies from the Sanitary,

as a matter of rule and of right, to be distributed under regulations jointly agreed upon.

9. By this system the Christian Commission can stand before the churches upon the high ground of its blessed spiritual work, and for this it will draw to it all the resources that it can possibly expend.

10. Pastors and churches must and will insist upon this common sense economy in the administration of these two great kindred charities. All which is submitted with deference to whom it may concern.

New York, June 6.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

The following extracts from the reports of our agents will serve to give an idea of how our work is progressing in this quarter:

M. C. READ.

CHATTANOOGA, Jan'y 1, 1864.

I have telegraphed you in regard to a supply of smoking and chewing tobacco, and a supply of anti-scorbutics at this point. Tobacco may seem to be of little importance, but very many of the men have been long accustomed to its use; they have been fighting almost constantly for weeks, constructing earth-works at night, sleeping in the trenches, and with arms in their hands most of the time. Sutlers are not allowed to follow the army, and men have no means of supplying themselves with this article which custom has made a necessity. Ought we not to furnish it for them?

The want of vegetable food is a more serious matter still. The constant excitement and constant labor of the campaign, are telling upon the strength and health of the men. "Scurvy" is becoming a frequent word in hospital reports, and calls from the front for vegetables for distribution to the regiments are becoming very urgent. Yesterday a surgeon came in on order from General Thomas, for transportation for three car loads of sanitary stores for his division.

Our efforts have been so long directed for providing for the wounded and sick, that we had nothing to send.

So urgent is the demand, that after advising with Dr. Wright, the Assistant Medical Director, I have ordered one car load, (three hundred bushels of onions,) to be gathered from the garden to-morrow, and sent forward to the regiments needing them most; true, in three weeks these three hundred bushels would make six hundred or more, if allowed to mature, but I believe they will be of more value now than they would then. Ten thousand barrels of pickles, kraut, and cabbage, with a good supply of ale, would be worth ten thousand men if they could be got to the

army at once. Cannot something be done in this matter, and at once?

I am confident I can get transportation for that amount immediately, and that it can be pushed promptly through and distributed to the men. It will involve a large outlay, but it will pay, and a thousand fold, if it can only be done. If a movement is made in this direction, and you will telegraph me how many cars are needed, and where, I have no doubt but that the necessary orders can be secured to obtain them promptly, or you can doubtless secure them through the Assistant Surgeon General.

Mr. Sutcliffe and Rev. O. Kennedy have reported, and go down to-night, one to take charge of the station at Dalton, and the other at Kingston. We have three stations (at Kingston, Dalton, and Resaca,) for feeding the wounded in transit from the front, while the prompt attention that all receive on arriving here, through arrangements made by the Post Medical Director, Dr. F. Salter, renders additional help at this point to the men coming in and going out unnecessary. The preparations are now ample for securing refreshments to the men in transit, and there can be no just complaints, except in rare instances.

For the wounded, we need milk and beef in large quantities, and large shipments of stores, in variety. Beef is indispensable at all stations for the refreshment of the wounded, as it can be promptly prepared, and there are many who can take little else.

I have such word from the front that I shall delay sending the onions for a day or two. But all reports confirm the idea that it is essential that something on a large scale be done for the men not yet sick.

DR. READ.

IN THE FIELD, NEAR KENTZLEW MT.

So far as I could by telegraph, I informed you why I took the responsibility of coming here, instead of meeting you in Nashville, as directed.

Telegrams from the Medical Director, asking us to aid in feeding the wounded to be sent back immediately, and again the great number of wounded, seemed to me to require all my attention here.

The feeding of the wounded on the road from Big Shanty to Chattanooga is now, perhaps, the most important part of our work. The trains are run with great irregularity, being sometimes forty-eight hours in making a hundred miles. The men have been sent sometimes without rations, and have not been always sure of drawing them on the way. Such is the irregularity that it is deemed necessary to keep open three refreshment stations, one at Kingston, at

Resaca, and at Dalton. Mr. Eno has undertaken to superintend this work, and to do it reasonably well will require great effort, as we have not and cannot immediately obtain sufficient cooking utensils. We make beef soup, coffee, and milk punch, and furnish soft crackers. Sometimes the trains cannot stop long enough, and thus we are defeated in our best efforts. But application has been made to the Medical Director to secure a longer stoppage of trains.

I find a large general hospital at Big Shanty. The surgeon in charge, Dr. Woodward, offered me rooms, and I sent back to Acworth for stores, as the wants of this hospital, and the gradual advance of our army, seemed to demand that our stores should be brought nearer.

Mr. Tone I found quite unwell. Mr. Mason goes to his aid. I also telegraphed our agents in Stevenson and Huntsville to come to Chattanooga, bringing all that belongs to the Commission; they are wanted much more here now.

The sick and wounded are to be sent back as soon as possible, but only that they may make room for others. The campaign is arduous beyond description. There is a good deal of scurvy among the men. Everything possible should be done to bring forward stores, especially milk, beef, and crackers.

These are the staple articles. So far, we have clothing sufficient, and no more men need be sent back without a change, if really destitute.

Fans are much in demand. Ice at Chattanooga is a great blessing, and is faithfully appropriated. It has come through in good condition, with little waste.

Within a few days at furthest, large demands are likely to be made on us for stores, and everything possible should be done to furnish means for curing or preventing scurvy as well as for taking care of the wounded.

REV. MR. INGRAHAM.

Nashville, July 1, 1864.

One who is earnestly engaged in the work of the Sanitary Commission finds but little time to write. There is so much to be done, such a field of labor before him, that he begrudges the very time it takes to write, for as long as he can move, he feels that he must be at work, doing some one good, and when he can no longer work, then he cannot write, and yet writing is work, and a good work.

There are many incidents every day occurring which, if recorded and published, would make the hearts of the soldiers' friends most gratified.

An instance of this kind occurred to-day. It had been telegraphed early in the morning to the Medical Director and to the

Sanitary Commission, that trains of wounded men would be in during the day. At once the Sanitary Commission made its arrangements to receive them with some little refreshments.

Drs. Castleman and Webster, two gentlemen nothing in their labors at all times for the sick and wounded, obtained a detail of half a dozen soldiers to assist, with one or two of the young men of the Commission, and hastened to the depot. There were already their boxes and barrels, their buckets and cups. Very soon the barrels were filled with water and ice. Baskets were filled with fine soda and other delicate crackers. Cans of condensed milk were opened and poured into buckets. Then bottles of pure whisky were emptied into a barrel of iced water, and when this was sufficiently strong, then the milk was poured in, stirred up, and presto!—there was a barrel of the finest iced milk punch—punch that made some of the gasping bystanders almost wish that they themselves were wounded in their country's cause.

Scarcely were the preparations completed than a train came rushing up to the platform. This in a few minutes time was followed by another, and then not long after, by a third, the whole number of wounded being between three and four hundred; and this is the way they have been coming in here for a week or two past. For they are clearing out all the hospitals at the front, those who can be moved, as well as sending up the later cases of men slightly wounded.

One of these trains was the regular Hospital Train, containing one hundred and twenty-five patients, (forty-two of these having each lost an arm, and twenty-three having each lost a leg,) under the charge of Dr. Barnum, and whose wounded have therefore needed but little at our hands. Every man had been carefully watched and provided for the whole distance from Chattanooga through. The other cars were box or freight cars, some of them with rough seats made of boards nailed temporarily to seats, and others were provided with shuck mattresses, on which the worst wounded were laid. There were sixteen of these cars in one train, and all filled with wounded men. These cars are very close and hot. There are no conveniences for sick men—no communication from one car to another, and when the train is in motion, if water or food is to be taken to the men, it has to be carried along the top of the cars, and then handed in at the little windows at either end, or reached down into the doorway, and of course, with the best of surgeons and nurses, but little can be done for their comfort; and when the trip, which is seldom less than twenty-four hours from Chattanooga, is unusually long, the suffering is very great.

On one of these trains that came in within a day or two, the men had had nothing to eat for twenty-four hours. The Sanitary Commission had provided refreshments at one of the stations, but through some cause the train did not stop.

You can easily imagine how such refreshments as those above mentioned were received at the depot here. Being so simple, all of both sick and wounded could partake of them. As soon as the train stopped, each car was entered with a basket of crackers, and a basket of punch. The crackers were first distributed. The poor fellows seemed thoroughly exhausted. They looked surprised at our entrance, but said nothing. "Have you had anything to eat lately?" Not since yesterday noon. "Have you had any water?" Yes, some. "Well, here are a few crackers for you." "Thank you." They were too much exhausted to waste strength in words. A large handful was given to each man, as he stretched out his hand for them, or asked to have them laid at his side.

Then, "here is some milk for you." Again a few feeble "I thank you's," as cups brimming full were handed to each man. One good swallow and a change came over them. "That's first rate." "Bully for you—hav'n't tasted anything so good in a year," &c., &c. One of them was an Irishman; he drank and smacked his lips, and says he, "that is *good* milk," it tastes just like the milk from my own mother's cow. "I reckon it does," answered another, "for yer own mother's cow was a whiskey barrel, wasn't it?" And so their jokes and spirits rose, as they felt the effect of the stimulating "spirits" that had gone down. Now all this was but a comparatively little work, and one hardly worth writing about, only that it is just such little attentions on the part of the Sanitary Commission or any one else, and attentions which they who bestow do not like to write about, that the friends of the soldiers at home desire to know are given, and the knowledge of which gladdens and encourages their hearts.

REV. J. H. HAZEN.

NASHVILLE, June 25th, 1864.

After my trip in the hospital train, which I have already noticed, according to your request, I reported to Judge Root, at Nashville, who sent me forward to Chattanooga. On arriving, I received a telegram from Dr. Read, then at Dalton, calling for all the help that could be spared. I started immediately, arriving at Dalton at 10 P. M.; found that Dr. Read had already nine wagons loaded with battle-stores for the field, which he requested me to take charge

of and go forward to the battle ground of the previous day, near Resaca. About 11 P. M., in company with Mr. Brundritt, Pocock, Murray and others, we started, traveling all night, most of the distance on foot. We arrived just at daylight at the hospital of the 3d Division of the 4th Corps. Left Mr. Pocock with a wagon-load of stores and proceeded to the 1st Division. Left Murray with another load and went to the 2d Division, where I remained with two loads, one for reserved supplies, and sent Mr. Brundritt with three other men to the 23d Corps.

I commenced my work of distribution, and continued it personally until all of my division was well supplied. I then took a list of all casualties in my division, four hundred and thirty-eight names, made my report to Mr. Hobbs, and remained with my division until the hospital was broken up. I then superintended the removal of the men to the railroad at Resaca, furnishing every one not able to sit up with a good comfortable bed, and making others as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. Having sent back the wounded from Resaca, I secured rooms, and, in company with our good and most efficient agent, Mr. Tone, cleared them and opened the goods we had left, for the purpose of feeding the men on the way to Chattanooga. At the request of A. A. Medical Director, Dr. Hubbard, and of Dr. Coolidge, Medical Inspector, I superintended the loading of the cars with the wounded, and in two days we transported more than two thousand men.

This work done, a good supply of stores having arrived, Mr. Tone and I turned our attention to furnishing the hospitals about town and in the field. While engaged in this work, I received a telegram from you, directing me to report to Dr. Barnum for duty on hospital train, which order I obeyed forthwith, and ever since have been doing what I could as an assistant.

MR. CULBERTSON.

KNOXVILLE, June 30th, 1864.

I am sorry to inform you that the garden will not be so much of a success as others and I have anticipated, the ground being much poorer than it was thought to be when selected. Besides, the worms and bugs have been very numerous, so much so as to destroy even onions and beets—a thing I never knew before.

The first beans I planted failed to come up, but the second planting are up nicely. Had the first come up and done well, I think that I could have issued at least a hundred bushels a week, for the last two and the coming two weeks. The lettuce and radishes proved almost an entire failure, seed being bad, and the ground poor.

Onions will show, perhaps, a third of a crop; dry weather, together with the worms which eat off the tap roots, having nearly destroyed them. Peas did as well as could be expected in such ground, and I am sorry that I had no seed to plant a late patch. The "boys" enjoyed what there were much, and often speak of the benefit derived from the Sanitary Commission.

Early cabbages are looking finely. The past few days there has been a small black bug working on them, but I think that they will come out all right as they have so good a start. Tomatoes look very well, and I have some five acres in. Potatoes, I hope, will be a fine crop; it, of course, depends on the future season entirely; they have suffered much and still do. I have ground prepared for late cucumbers, and am waiting for rain to plant. I want to get as many turnips in as I possibly can, and think that they will be among the most profitable vegetables for hospitals.

MR. BROWN.

LEAVENWORTH, July 1st, 1864.

Both Post and General Hospitals at Fort Leavenworth are full, and many have to be treated outside. Lawrence, Olathe, Paola, Humboldt, and Pleasant Grove, are field hospitals, with very poor accommodations. I found both officers and sick men very glad to see an agent of the Sanitary Commission. Everything that I furnished was very thankfully received.

Fort Scott Hospital is full, and tents are being used for those that are being constantly sent in from below. Dr. C. C. Slocum has gone again to Fort Gibson, and Tallahas hospitals—will report when he returns. I have requisitions from Kansas City, Independence, Westport, and Pleasant Hill, but am out of supplies of such kinds as are most needed. The country is so new, that all articles of the fruit kind are difficult to obtain, and our sick men suffer with all that class of diseases induced by constant use of bacon. Again, we have been threatened with raids of bushwhackers along the entire border of the State, which has kept our soldiers constantly on rapid movements, many times far beyond their power of endurance. The state militia and citizens, in many parts are called out to aid in defence of the border against these desperate bushwhackers, that spare no man when they get into Kansas. All this extra exposure is bringing with it much sickness and consequent need of supplies.

Refugees, both white and colored, are now flooding Kansas—eight hundred and forty-one came in with the last return train from Fort Smith, or five hundred with the train before, and we have advices that thousands more will come. These are most-

ly women and children, and in most destitute, sick, and wretched condition. Officers in charge are constantly appealing to us as agents of the Sanitary Commission for relief for these unfortunate people, and I do wish it was in my power to do more for them than is possible with my present help, or supply of stores.

MR. JONES.

DECEMBER, July 26th 1864.

The work here consists in providing food and drink for the sick and wounded soldiers going North on freight trains, mostly box cars, sometimes furnished with straw or leaves, and often without either. There pass from one to three of these trains daily, each carrying from one to three hundred men. To enable us to do this work we have procured two box cars, one of which we use as kitchen and pantry, and the other as storeroom and sleeping room for four detailed men. The kitchen is furnished with a convenient stove and furniture, and everything necessary to enable us to prepare soup and coffee promptly for any reasonable number of men that a single train can bring. The officers of the army at this post sympathize with our work, and cheerfully render all needed assistance. Col. McConnell, commanding, is building an ice-house, mostly with material abandoned by former secession owners, and with no expense to us, except for nails, &c.

The Assistant Quartermaster banks our water from a spring half a mile distant, and the institution is now in very good working condition. If the management was to be permanent or to continue through the winter, larger and more comfortable quarters would be necessary, but for the summer campaign, I think the proposed results can be achieved with our present accommodations.

There seems to be necessary some management by which we shall receive reliable advices by telegraph of the coming trains. Sunday we received a dispatch saying that two trains, filled with wounded men, would be due here at 11 P. M. We made suitable preparations, but they did not come. Such circumstances occasion much waste and loss of time. Then, again, trains come in without notice, and we are unable to provide for them as bountifully as we should be glad to. We are trying, however, to have this matter arranged.

Last evening at 11 o'clock, a train came in with about three hundred wounded and sick men. We gave them beef soup, crackers, and coffee. Their crowded, uncomfortable, and exhausted condition indicated great need of such refreshment—the eagerness with which it was received, and the expressions of satisfaction and gratitude which it elicited, could not fail to warm the

hardest heart with the consciousness that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and with the conviction that there is an element of Divinity in goodness.

Besides the four detailed men we have four colored men. We board on the car. I sleep at the tavern.

—
MR. ENO.

KINGSTON, GA., Ju'y 22, 1864.

The enclosed report of disbursements at this place to 1st July, shows for itself what has been done at one of the stations in front. I presume you have the report from Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, and Dalton, as they were left in Chattanooga.

The stores forwarded to stations in front from this place will appear in Mr. Van Dyke's next report.

Besides distributing sanitary stores, a very important work is being done in preparing and giving refreshments to the wounded on trains going to Chattanooga.

The first was prepared at Dalton on the 17th of May, and the first four days 1,500 were supplied with hot coffee, soup, and crackers. Each of the stations, Dalton, Resaca and Kingston, are now well prepared to feed any number at short notice. Another station will be arranged to-day at Marietta, Mr. Kennedy or Norton in charge.

In doing this work, it is no more than justice to say that the Government are giving us every facility necessary, and we are also under many obligations to the gentlemanly officers of the different posts, and at Resaca and Kingston, the Christian Commission have rendered very efficient aid in distributing to the sick and wounded.

The importance of provision being made for the sick and wounded on trains can only be fairly estimated by those who know and feel the vexatious delays on the road. They are from 24 to 48 hours in reaching Chattanooga, and all this time riding in freight cars, without a blanket for a bed, and no chance for refreshments except at Sanitary stations.

Men in such situations fully appreciate the work, and bless their friends at home for sustaining the Sanitary Commission. Besides coffee, soup, and crackers, we now give them sandwiches, punch or ale, and the men are also instructed to furnish plenty of fresh water to wash their wounds and fill canteens.

Up to 1st July there had been given out at this station,

495 gallons of coffee,
243 " ale,
175 " punch,
465 lbs. crackers,

To 5,630 sick and wounded. The station was out of crackers a few days and had to use hard bread. Arrangements are now

made for light bread, which will be used with cold ham to make sandwiches.

Mr. J. W. Van Dyke has been in charge of the station since Mr. Barret left. In him the soldier has a good friend and the Commission a very efficient agent.

HOSPITAL SKETCHES.

NASHVILLE, July 6, 1864.

To-day, visited Hospital No. —. Nearly all the patients that, but a few days since were there, have now gone, and new faces everywhere not "greeted," but *gazed* at me. And so many of them! Every bed, every ward, and even the halls were filled with the newly wounded. As there was either a nurse or a patient in every ward who knew me, it was soon whispered among them, that their visitor belonged to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and that he was a clergyman also. Very soon his kind inquiries after their health and comfort were returned by questions on their part. "Do you belong to the Sanitary Commission?" "Well, that's good." "Can you get me a pair of crutches?" "Can you get me an arm-sling?" "Could you get me some letter-paper and stamps, I haven't had a chance to write home for three months."

"Chaplain, will you please to come this way?" The Chaplain goes. "Please stoop down." The Chaplain begins to expect some expression of religious feeling. "Did I understand that you belong to the Sanitary Commission?" "Yes, sir." "Well, that is just the best institution that ever was. I believe that some of us would have died at Resaca, but for that. But Chaplain, do you think you could do me a great favor?" "I will try. What is it?" "Why, I am almost dead for a chew of tobacco. Haven't had any for two months, and haven't got a cent of money. I know 'tain't just right, Chaplain, for a man to have such habits, but then when a fellow's got so used to it," etc.

The Chaplain promises all these men, and many others, that their wants shall be soon supplied, and, having made a note of all, passes on into other wards, with a kind word and inquiry at almost every bed. Directly he observes a patient, who seems to take but little interest in anything about him. Here is a case that requires more particular attention, for he is evidently very sick. Stooping down at his bed-side, the Chaplain asks him, in a very kind voice, how he gets along. "Very badly, sir." What is the matter? "Fever, sir, the doctor says." And fever it is, sure enough. The man is burning up with typhoid fever, which he took after having waded through a river breast-deep, and then being sent out to do picket duty, without an opportunity of drying his clothes. The Chaplain sits silently by his

side, thinking what he can do for him. "Please give me some water." The water is given him, but it is warm and insipid. "Nurse, have you no ice?" "No, sir." "Have you no acid or cooling drinks for such cases as this?" "No, sir, we are all out. The surgeon was saying to-day he wished we had some. When he comes around again I will remind him of it."

"Very good. But we cannot wait for that now. Take this order, and send it to the Sanitary storeroom for a couple of bottles of raspberry syrup, and make a drink for each of your fever patients." For the surgeon had assured the Sanitary visitor that he would be obliged to him for supplying any such want, whenever he should see it to be a case of need. Therefore the order was written and given to the errand boy; but before he leaves, the order is increased to one-half dozen bottles of blackberry cordial for the diarrhea cases, a few lemons for the scorbutic, a few slippers, and some dozen of fans for the fly-tormented wounded.

These wants attended to, a nurse approaches saying, "Chaplain, that man in the corner wants to see you." The Chaplain goes to him. He reaches out his thin withered hand, and says: "Chaplain, I am pretty sick. I don't allow that I shall get well. I've got consumption, and can't last long, and thought I would like to have you write to my woman and children for me, if it ain't too much trouble." "Certainly I will with pleasure, my friend. What is her name and address?" This being all carefully written out—"What shall I say for you?" "Tell her that I didn't get shot, but I did my duty in every fight, and never shirked. But I took cold and got sick. Tell her that I did want to get home to see her and the children, but—but—" and here the poor fellow broke down; soon, however, he recovered himself, and continued; "But God knows best. Tell her I haven't much for her. I made some little trinkets for keepsake, out of shell at Stone River; they are in my knapsack, and there is my testament, and there will be a little money coming to her. Tell her I have had everything done for me here. They have been very kind. And tell her to kiss the dear children for me, and to—to—meet me in Heaven."

He could say no more. Indeed, it was all he had to say. Having written the letter at his bed-side, and then after allowing him time to rest, the Chaplain returned to him and said: "Since you have made such thoughtful preparations for leaving this world, my friend, have you made any preparations for entering the next?" "Yes, sir. I have tried to do so. I have prayed; I have asked God's forgiveness for all the wickedness I have done, for Jesus' sake. He knows it all. He knows how I feel. He

knows I am sorry enough. Will you pray for me?" After some further conversation, and reading from his testament, the Chaplain knelt and offered up a simple earnest prayer. The man was very much affected, and yet comforted. He thanked the Chaplain more by manner than by words, and begged him to come again very soon. The Chaplain returned the next morning; the sick man's bed was vacant—he had died during the night.

"Your visit did him so much good," said the nurse. "It seemed to be all he wanted," said mother. Each one had a word to say, until requesting that all should be silent, the Chaplain addressed all within the ward upon the true hope of man in death, and then offering up prayers for each and all, he left them for awhile to their own thoughts.

Such is but a brief paragraph in the chapter of one day spent in hospital, by one of the hospital visitors and Chaplains of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

A REASONABLE REMONSTRANCE.

The following extract is from a letter written by one of the most intelligent of the Associate Managers of the "Women's Central Relief Association."

"In one of the late BULLETINS, (I think April 15th,) I noticed a request that each housewife in the country should, during the coming summer, prepare 'at least two bushels of dried fruit.' Now it is evident that the person who made it knew very little about his subject. He couldn't have been a *courtyman*. In the first place, it is the farmer's wives from whom such supplies must come. The demands upon their time and strength, always heavy, are doubly oppressive in just the season when fruits are to be prepared, and it would take eight or nine bushels of the fresh fruit to make the quantity named. If *half* a bushel had been asked of each one, the amount would probably be larger than that you will now receive, for people always like to be praised for doing better than was asked of them. The already over-laboring housewife who hears herself coolly called upon for 'at least' a month's labor, looks around upon her five or six little children, on the piles of accumulating sewing, on the ten or twelve 'hands' whose daily meals she is to provide, on the heavy work attendant upon the cheese-press or the butter-making, and on the necessary preparations to subsist the household during a long and tedious winter, and says, 'Well, I could prepare a *little*, but those Sanitary folks ask for so much that it's no use for me to try, let somebody else do it who has more time.'

"But I must tell you of one or two instances of self-devotion which have come

to my knowledge. The wife of a small farmer, in delicate health, with a large family, last summer gathered and prepared with her own hands, and sent two gallons of jelly, one of currant wine, five of prepared blackcap, (for vermin,) a bushel of dried fruits, and a barrel and a forty gallon cask of pickles, besides sending her daughters to walk two or three miles to an Aid Society to bring home sewing. Another is of a lady eighty-five years old, whose family have during the last winter made thirty bed-quilts, to more than one-third of which she made the linings from almost invisible pieces, besides knitting several pairs of socks. Such labors, although they may not amount to much in money, are no trifles to those who perform them.

"As 'country folks' must be better acquainted with such matters than city ones, I have ventured to speak of the request in the BULLETIN, in the hope that if further demands are made for pickles, &c., the quantity named may be more in proportion to the abilities of the housewife."

ON A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

Riding on a rail in the "Sunny South" is not the most agreeable pastime in the world. Don't understand me to refer to that favorite *argumentum ad hominem* which a true Southerner applies to all who have the misfortune to differ from him, especially to Northern abolitionists; I simply mean that mode of traveling that Saxe in his funny little poem, calls so "pleasant." And no wonder! To be whirled along at the rate of forty miles an hour, over a smooth road, reposing on velvet cushioned seats, with backs just at the proper angle to rest a tired head—ice-water, the last novel or periodical—all that can tempt your fastidious taste, or help to while away the time offered at your elbow, is indeed pleasant; but woe to the fond imagination that pictures to itself such luxuries on a United States military railroad. Be thankful if in the crowd of tobacco-chewing soldiers you are able to get a seat, and grumble not if the pine boards are hard and narrow. Lay in a good stock of patience, for six miles an hour is probably the highest rate of speed you will attain, and even then you shudder to see on either hand strewn along the road, wrecks of cars and locomotives smashed in every conceivable manner, telling of some fearful accident or some guerrilla fight. These are discomforts hard to bear even when one is well and strong; how much worse for a sick or wounded man. But thanks to the U. S. Sanitary Commission and to those gentlemen belonging to it, whose genius and benevolence originated, planned, and carried it out, a Hospital Train is now running on almost all the roads over which it is necessary to trans-

port sick or wounded men. These trains are now under the control of Government, but the Sanitary Commission continues to furnish a great part of the stores that are used in them. My first experience of them was a sad one. A week before the army had moved forward and concentrated near Tunnel Hill. The dull, monotonous rumble of army wagons as they rolled in long trains through the dusty street; the measured tramp of thousands of bronzed and war-worn veterans; the rattle and roar of the guns and caissons as they thundered on their mission of death; the glittering sheen reflected from a thousand sabres, had all passed by and left us in the desolated town. We lived, as it were, with bated breath and eager ears, our nerves tensely strung with anxiety and suspense, waiting to catch the first sound of that coming strife, where we knew so many of our bravest and best must fall. At last came the news of that terrible fight at Buzzard's Roost or Rocky Face Ridge, and the evening after, in came Dr. S——, straight from the front, and said, "the Hospital Train is at the depot, wouldn't you like to see it?" "Of course we would," chorused Mrs. Dr. S—— and myself, a d forthwith we rushed for our hats and cloaks, filled two large baskets with soft crackers and oranges, and started off. A walk of a mile brought us to the depot, and down in the farther corner of the depot yard we saw a train of seven or eight cars standing, apparently unoccupied. "There it is," said Dr. S. "Why, it looks like any ordinary train," I innocently remarked, but I was soon to find out the difference. We chanced to see Dr. Myers, the surgeon in charge, on the first car into which we went, and he made us welcome to do and to give whatever we had for the men, and so, armed with authority from the "powers that be," we went forward with confidence.

Imagine a car a little wider than the ordinary one, placed on springs, and having on each side three tiers of berths or cots, suspended by rubber bands. These cots are so arranged as to yield to the motion of the car, thereby avoiding that jolting experienced even on the smoothest and best kept road. I didn't stop to investigate the plan of the car then, for I saw before me, on either hand, a long line of soldiers, shot in almost every conceivable manner, their wounds fresh from the battle-field, and all were patient and quiet; not a groan or complaint escaped them, though I saw some faces twisted into strange contortions with the agony of their wounds. I commenced distributing my oranges right and left, but soon realized the smallness of my basket and the largeness of the demand, and sadly passed by all but the worst cases. In the third car that we entered we found the Colonel, Lieut. Colonel and Adjutant

of the 29th Ohio, all severely wounded. We stopped and talked awhile. Mindful of the motto of my commission, to give "aid and comfort," I trickled a little sympathy on them. "Poor fellows!" said I. "No, indeed," said they. "We *did* suffer riding twenty miles"—it couldn't have been more than fourteen or fifteen, but a shattered limb or a ball in one's side lengthens the miles astonishingly—"in those horrid ambulances to the cars." "We cried last night like children, some of us," said a Lieutenant, "but we're all right now. This Hospital Train is a jolly thing. It goes like a cradle." Seeing my sympathy wasted, I tried another tack. "Did you know that Sherman was in Dalton." "No!" cried the Colonel, and all the men who could, raised themselves up and stared at me with eager, questioning eyes. "Is that so?" "Yes," I replied, "It is true." "Then I don't care for this little wound," said one fellow, slapping his right leg, which was pierced and torn by a minnie ball. Brave men! How I longed to take our whole North, and pour out its wealth and luxury at their feet.

A little farther on in the car, I chanced to look down, and there at my feet lay a young man, not more than eighteen or nineteen years old; hair tossed back from his noble white brow; long brown lashes lying on his cheek; face as delicate and refined as a girl's. I spoke to him and he opened his eyes, but could not answer me. I held an orange before him, and he looked at Yes; so I cut a hole in it and squeezed some of the juice into his mouth. It seemed to revive him a little, and after sitting a short time I left him. Soon after, they carried him out on a stretcher—poor fellow! He was dying when I last saw him, and I could but think of his mother and sisters who would have given worlds to stand beside him as I did. By this time it was growing dark, my oranges had given out, and we were sadly in the way; so we left, to be haunted for many a day by the terrible pictures we had seen on our first visit to a Hospital Train.

My next experience was much pleasanter. I had the privilege of a ride on one from Chattanooga to Nashville, and an opportunity of seeing the plan of arrangement of the train. There were three hundred and fourteen sick and wounded men on board, occupying nine or ten cars, with the surgeon's car in the middle of the train. This car is divided into three compartments; at one end is the storeroom, where are kept the tables and bedding; at the other the kitchen; and between the two the surgeon's room, containing his bed, secretary, and shelves and pigeon holes for instruments, medicines, etc. A narrow hall connects the storeroom and kitchen, and great windows or openings in the opposite sides of

the car give a pleasant draft of air. Sitting in a comfortable arm-chair, one would not wish a pleasanter mode of traveling, especially through the glorious mountains of East Tennessee, and farther on, over the fragrant, fertile meadows, and the rolling plains of Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, clothed in their fresh green garments of new cotton and corn. This is all charming for a passenger, but a Hospital train is a busy place for the surgeons and nurses.

The men come on at evening, selected from the different hospitals, according to their ability to be moved, and after having had their tea, the wounds have to be freshly dressed. This takes till midnight, perhaps longer, and the surgeon must be on the watch continually, for on him falls the responsibility, not only of the welfare of the men, but of the safety of the train. There is a conductor and brakeman, and for them, too, there is no rest. Each finds enough to do as nurse or assistant. In the morning, after a breakfast of delicious coffee or tea, dried beef, dried peaches, soft bread, cheese, etc., the wounds have to be dressed a second time, and again in the afternoon, a third.

In the intervals the surgeon finds time to examine individual cases, and prescribe especially for them, and perhaps to take a little rest. To fulfill the duties of surgeon in charge of such a train, or endure the terrible strain on brain, and nerves and muscles, require great skill, an iron will, and a mind undaunted by the shadow of any responsibility or danger. All this and more has Dr. J. P. Barnum, who has charge of the train formerly running between Louisville and Nashville, but now transferred to the road between Nashville and Chattanooga. With a touch, gentle as a woman, yet with manly strength and firmness, and untiring watchfulness and thoughtful care, he seems wholly devoted to the work of benefiting our sick and wounded soldiers. All on board the train gave him the warmest thanks. As I walked through the car, I heard the men say, "we hav'n't lived so well since we joined the army. We are better than we were ever before. This is the nicest place we were ever in," etc. Should the Doctor chance to see this, he will be shocked, for modesty, I notice, goes in hand with true nobility and generosity; but I risk his wrath for the selfish pleasure that one has in doing justice to a good man.

After breakfast, in the morning, when the wounds were all dressed, I had the pleasure of carrying into one car a pitcher of delicious blackberry wine that came from the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, and with the advice of Dr. Yates, the assistant surgeon, giving it to the men. The car into which I went had only one

tier of berths, supported like the others on rubber bands. Several times during the day I had an opportunity of giving some little assistance in taking care of wounded men, and it was very pleasant. My journey lasted a night and a day, and I think I can never again pass another twenty-four hours so fraught with sweet and sad memories as are connected with my second and last experience on a Hospital Train. C.

THE BLUE COAT.

The following ballad is from the pen of Bishop Burgess, of Maine, and was contributed by him to the book published and sold at the late Sanitary Fair in Baltimore, under the sanction of the State Fair Association of the Women of Maryland.

THE BLUE COAT OF THE SOLDIER.

You asked me, little one, why I bowed,
Though never I passed the man before?
Because my heart was full and proud,
When I saw the old blue coat he wore;
The blue great coat, the sky blue coat,
The old blue coat the soldier wore.

I knew not, I, what weapon he chose,
What chief he followed, what badge he wore;
Enough that in the front of foes
His country's blue great-coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps he was born in a forest hut,
Perhaps he had danced on a palace floor;
To want or wealth my eyes were shut;
I only marked the coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

It mattered not much if he drew his line
From Shem or Ham, in the days of yore;
For surely he was a brother of mine,
Who for my sake the war coat wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He might have no skill to read or write,
Or he might be rich in learned lore;
But I knew he could make his mark in fight,
And nobler gown no scholar wore
Than the blue great-coat, &c.

It may be he could plunder and prowl,
And perhaps in his mood he scoffed and swore;
But I would not guess a spot so foul
On the honored coat he bravely wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He had worn it long, and borne it far;
And perhaps on the red Virginian shore,
From midnight chill till the morning star
That worn great-coat the sentry wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

When hardy Butler reined his steed
Through the streets of proud, proud Baltimore,
Perhaps behind him, at his need,
Marched he who yonder blue coat wore.
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps it was seen in Burnside's ranks,
When Rappahannock ran dark with gore;
Perhaps on the mountain side with Banks
In the burning sun no more he wore
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps in the swamps was a bed for his form,
From the seven days' battling and marching sore;
Or with Kearney and Pope 'mid the steely storm
As the night closed in, that coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Or when right over as Jackson dashed,
That collar or cape some bullet tore;
Or when far ahead Antietam flashed,
He hung to the ground the coat that he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Or stood at Gettysburgh, where the graves
Rang deep to Howard's cannon roar;
Or saw with Grant the unchained waves
Where conquering hosts the blue coat wore.
The blue great-coat, &c.

That garb of honor tells enough,
Though I its story guess no more;
The heart it covers is made of such stuff,
That coat is mail which that soldier wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He may hang it up when the peace shall come,
And the moths may find it behind the door;
But his children will point when they hear a drum
To the proud old coat their father wore,
The blue great-coat, &c.

And so, my child, will you and I,
For whose fair home their blood they pour,
Still bow the head, as one goes by,
Who wears the coat that soldier wore;
The blue great-coat, the sky-blue coat,
The old blue coat the soldier wore.

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ON THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of New Hampshire, in General Court convened,

That the United States Sanitary Commission commends itself to our hearty support, and that we hereby testify on behalf of the soldiers and people of this State, to the benevolence of its principles and efficiency of its plans, as a means of promoting the welfare of the army.

Resolved, That we especially esteem the nationality of its views and declarations, by which all our soldiers, without distinction of place, are regarded as United States soldiers, and treated as such in all respects.

Resolved, That the Ladies' Aid Societies of New Hampshire, acting as they do in co-operation with the United States Sanitary Commission, are heartily commended to the continued support of our people, as the most suitable tribunaries through which the contributions of New Hampshire may be distributed to the hospitals and camps of the army.

NOTES ON NURSING.

CONCLUSION.

The whole of the preceding remarks apply even more to children and preperal women than to patients in general. They also apply to the nursing of surgical, quite as much as to that of medical cases. Indeed, if it be possible, cases of external injury require such care even more than sick. In surgical wards, one duty of every nurse certainly is prevention. Fever, or hospital gangrene, or pyæmia, or purulent discharge of some kind may else supervene. Has she a case of compound fracture, of amputation, or of erysipelas, it may depend very much on how she looks upon the things enumerated in these notes, whether one or other of these hospital diseases attacks her patient or not. If she allows her ward to become filled with the peculiar close fetid smell, so apt to be produced among surgical cases, especially where there is great suppuration and discharge, she may see a vigorous patient in the prime of life gradually sink and die where, according to all human probability, he ought to have recovered.

Nevertheless let no one think that because *sanitary nursing* is the subject of these notes, therefore, what may be called the handicraft of nursing is to be undervalued. A patient may be left to bleed to death in a sanitary palace. Another who cannot move himself may die of bed-sores, because the nurse does not know how to change and clean him, while he has every requisite of air, light, and quiet. But nursing, as a handicraft, has not been treated of here for three reasons: 1. That these notes do not pretend to be a manual for nursing, any more than for cooking for the sick; 2. That the writer, who has herself seen more of what may be called surgical nursing, i. e. practical manual nursing, than, perhaps, any one in Europe, honestly believes that it is impossible to learn it from any book, and that it can only be thoroughly learnt in the wards of a hospital; and she also honestly believes that the perfection of surgical nursing may be seen practised by the old-fashioned "Sister" of a London hospital, as it can be seen nowhere else in Europe. 3. While thousands die of foul air, etc., who have this surgical nursing to perfection, the converse is comparatively rare.

To revert to children. They are much more susceptible than grown people to all noxious influences. They are affected by the same things, but much more quickly and seriously, viz., by want of fresh air, of proper warmth, want of cleanliness in house, clothes, bedding, or body, by startling noises, improper food, or want of punctuality, by dullness and by want of light, by too much or too little covering in bed, or when up, by want of the spirit of management generally in those in charge of them. One can, therefore, only press the importance, as being yet greater in the case of children, greatest in the case of sick children, of attending to these things.

That which, however, above all, is known to injure children seriously is foul air, and most seriously at night. Keeping the rooms where they sleep tight shut up, is destruction to them. And, if the child's breathing be disordered by disease, a few hours only of such foul air may endanger its life, even where no inconve-

nience is felt by grown-up persons in the same room.

The following passages, taken out of an excellent "Lecture on Sudden Death in Infancy and Childhood," just published, show the vital importance of careful nursing of children. "In the great majority of instances, when death suddenly befalls the infant or young child, it is an *accident*; it is not a necessary result of any disease from which it is suffering."

It may be here added, that it would be very desirable to know how often death is, with adults, "not a necessary, inevitable result of any disease." Omit the word "sudden," (for *sudden death* is comparatively rare in middle age;) and the sentence is almost equally true for all ages.

The following causes of "accidental" death in sick children are enumerated:—"Sudden noises, which startle—a rapid change of temperature, which chills the surface, though only for a moment—a rude awakening from sleep—or even an over-hasty, or an overflow meal"—"any sudden impression on the nervous system—any hasty alteration of posture—in short, any cause whatever by which the respiratory process may be disturbed."

It may again be added, that, with very weak adult patients, these causes are also (not often "suddenly fatal," it is true, but) very much oftener than is at all generally known, irreparable in their consequences.

Both for children and for adults, both for sick and for well, (although more certainly in the case of sick children than in any others,) I would here again repeat, the most frequent and most fatal cause of all is sleeping, for even a few hours, much more for weeks and months in foul air, a condition which, more than any other condition, disturbs the respiratory process, and tends to produce "accidental" death in disease.

I need hardly here repeat the warning against any confusion of ideas between cold and fresh air. You may chill a patient fatally without giving him fresh air at all. And you can quite well, nay, much better, give him fresh air without chilling him. This is the test of a good nurse.

In cases of long recurring faintness from disease, for instance, especially disease which affects the organs of breathing, fresh air to the lungs, warmth to the surface, and often (as soon as the patient can swallow,) hot drink, these are the right remedies and the only ones. Yet, oftener than not, you see the nurse or mother just reversing this; shutting up every cranny through which fresh air can enter, and leaving the body cold, or perhaps throwing a greater weight of clothes upon it, when already it is generating too little heat.

"Breathing carefully, anxiously, as though respiration were a function which required all the attention for its performance," is cited as a not unusual state in children, and as one calling for care in all the things enumerated above. That breathing becomes an almost voluntary act, even in grown up patients who are very weak, must have been remarked.

"Disease having interfered with the perfect accomplishment of the respiratory function, some sudden demand for its complete exercise, issues in the sudden stand-still of the whole

machinery," is given as one process;—"life goes out for want of nervous power to keep the vital functions in activity," is given as another, by which "accidental" death is most often brought to pass in infancy.

Also in middle age, both these processes may be seen ending in death, although generally not suddenly. I have seen, even in middle age, the "sudden stand-still" here mentioned, and from the same causes.

To sum up:—the answer to two of the commonest objections urged, one by women themselves, the other by men, against the desirableness of sanitary knowledge for women, *plus* a caution, comprises the whole argument for the art of nursing.

(1.) It is often said by men, that it is unwise to teach women anything about these laws of health, because they will take to physicing—that there is a great deal too much of amateur physicing as it is, which is indeed true. One eminent physician told me that he had known more calumel given, both at a pinch and for a continuance, by mothers, governesses, and nurses, to children, than he had ever heard of a physician prescribing in all his experience. Another says, that women's only idea in medicine is calumel and aperients. This is undeniably too often the case. There is nothing ever seen in any professional practice like the reckless physicing by amateur females. But this is just what the really experienced and observing nurse does *not* do; she neither physices herself nor others. And to cultivate in things pertaining to health, observation and experience in women who are mothers, governesses or nurses, is just the way to do away with amateur physicing, and if the doctors did but know it, to make the nurses obedient to them—helps to them instead of hindrances. Such education in women would indeed diminish the doctor's work—but no one really believes that doctors wish that there should be more illness, in order to have more work.

I have known many ladies who, having once obtained a "blue pill" prescription from a physician, gave and took it as a common aperient two or three times a week—with what effect may be supposed. In one case I happened to be the person to inform the physician of it, who substituted for the prescription a comparatively harmless aperient pill. The lady came to me and complained that it "did not suit her half so well."

If women will take or give physic, by far the safest plan is to send for "the doctor" every time—for I have known ladies who both gave and took physic, who would not take the pains to learn the names of the commonest medicines, and confounded, e. g., colocynth with colchicum. This is playing with sharp-edged tools "with a vengeance."

There are excellent women who will write to London to their physician that there is much sickness in their neighborhood in the country, and ask for some prescription from him, which they used to like themselves, and then give it to all their friends and to all their poorer neighbors who will take it. Now, instead of giving medicine, of which you cannot possibly know the exact and proper application, nor all its consequences, would it not be better if you were to persuade and help your poorer neighbors to

remove the dung-hill from before the door, to put in a window which opens, or an Arnott's ventilator, or to cleanse and lime-wash the cottages? Of these things the benefits are sure. The benefits of the inexperienced administration of medicine are by no means so sure.

Homoeopathy has introduced one essential amelioration in the practice of physic by amateur females; for its rules are excellent, its physicking comparatively harmless—the "globule" is the one grain of folly which appears to be necessary to make any good thing acceptable. Let then women, if they will give medicine, give homoeopathic medicine. It won't do any harm.

An almost universal error among women is the supposition that everybody *must* have the bowels opened once in every twenty-four hours, or must fly immediately to aperients. The reverse is the conclusion of experience.

This is a doctor's subject, and I will not enter more into it; but will simply repeat, do not go on taking or giving to your children abominable "courses of aperients," without calling in the doctor.

It is very seldom indeed, that by choosing your diet, you cannot regulate your own bowels; and every woman may watch herself to know what kind of diet will do this; I have known deficiency of meat produce constipation quite as often as deficiency of vegetables; baker's bread much oftener than either. Home made brown bread will oftener cure it than anything else.

(2.) It is often said by women, that they cannot know anything of the laws of health, or what to do to preserve their children's health, because they can know nothing of "Pathology," or cannot "dissect,"—a confusion of ideas which it is hard to attempt to disentangle. Pathology teaches the harm that disease has done. But it teaches nothing more. We know nothing of the principle of health, the positive of which pathology is the negative, except from observation and experience. And nothing but observation and experience will teach us the ways to maintain or to bring back the state of health. It is often thought that medicine is the curative process. It is no such thing; medicine is the surgery of functions, as surgery proper is that of limbs and organs. Neither can do anything but remove obstructions; neither can cure; nature alone cures. Surgery removes the bullet out of the limb, which is an obstruction to cure, but nature heals the wound. So it is with medicine; the function of an organ becomes obstructed; medicine, so far as we know, assists nature to remove the obstruction, but does nothing more. And what nursing has to do in either case, is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him. Generally, just the contrary is done. You think fresh air, and quiet and cleanliness extravagant, perhaps dangerous, luxuries, which should be given to the patient only when quite convenient, and medicine the *sine qua non*, the panacea. If I have succeeded in any measure in dispelling this illusion, and in showing what true nursing is, and what it is not, my object will have been answered.

Now for the caution:—

(3.) It seems a commonly received idea among men, and even among women themselves,

that it requires nothing but a disappointment in love, the want of an object, a general disgust, or incapacity for other things, to turn a woman into a good nurse.

This reminds one of the parish where a stupid old man was set to be schoolmaster because he was "past keeping the pigs."

Apply the above receipt for making a good nurse to making a good servant. And the receipt will be found to fail.

Yet popular novelists of recent days have invented ladies disappointed in love or fresh out of the drawing-room, turning into the war-hospitals to find their wounded lovers, and when found, forthwith abandoning their sick-ward for their lover, as might be expected. Yet in the estimation of the authors, those ladies were none the worse for that, but on the contrary, were heroines of nursing.

What cruel mistakes are sometimes made by benevolent men and women in matters of business about which they can know nothing and think they know a great deal.

The everyday management of a large ward, let alone of a hospital—the knowing what are the laws of life and death for men, and what the laws of health for wards—(and wards are healthy or unhealthy, mainly according to the knowledge or ignorance of the nurse)—are not these matters of sufficient importance and difficulty to require learning by experience and careful inquiry, just as much as any other art? They do not come by inspiration to the lady disappointed in love, nor to the poor workhouse drudge hard up for a livelihood.

And terrible is the injury which has followed to the sick from such wild notions!

In this respect, (and why is it so?) in Roman Catholic countries, both writers and workers are, in theory at least, far before ours. They would never think of such a beginning for a good working Superior or Sister of Charity. And many a Superior has refused to admit a *Postulant* who appeared to have no better "vocation" or reasons for offering herself than these.

It is true we make "no vows." But is a "vow" necessary to convince us that the true spirit for learning any art, most especially an art of charity, a right, is not a disgust to everything or something else? Do we really place the love of our kind (and of nursing, as one branch of it) so low as this? What would the *Mère Angélique* of Port Royal, what would our own Mrs. Fry have said to this?

NOTE.—I would earnestly ask my sisters to keep clear of both the jargons now current everywhere, (for they are equally jargons;) of the jargon, namely, about the "rights" of women, which urges women to do all that men do, including the medical and other professions, merely because men do it, and without regard to whether this is the best that women can do; and of the jargon which urges woman to do nothing that men do, merely because they are women, and should be "recalled to a sense of their duty as women," and because "this is women's work," and "that is men's," and "these are things which women should not do," which is all assertion, and nothing more. Surely woman should bring the best she has, whatever that is, to the work of God's world, without attending to either of these cries. For

what are they, both of them, the one just as much as the other, but listening to the "what people will say," to opinion, to the "voices from without?" And as a wise man has said, no one has ever done anything great or useful by listening to the voice from without.

You do not want the effect of your good things to be, "How wonderful for a woman!" nor would you be deterred from good things by hearing it said, "Yes, but she ought not to have done this, because it is not suitable for a woman." But you want to do the thing that is good, whether it is "suitable for a woman" or not.

It does not make a thing good, that it is remarkable that a woman should have been able to do it. Neither does it make a thing bad, which would have been good had a man done it, that it has been done by a woman.

Oh, leave these jargons, and go your way straight to God's work, in simplicity and singleness of heart. — *Miss Nightingale*.

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1st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.

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3d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.

4th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

Sanitary Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to State or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburgh, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.

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Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
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Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—G. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 15, 1864.

No. 20.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of about 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STURGO, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

REPORT OF E. B. McCAGG AND E. W. BLATCHFORD,

PRESIDENT AND TREASURER OF THE NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

During the months of May and June we made a brief visit to the headquarters of the United States Sanitary Commission in the West, and a rapid tour through its field of operations in the Army of the Cumberland. We submit the following brief report of our observations, which may not be wholly devoid of interest or practical utility to our numerous co-laborers through the North-West.

Our object, in this visit, was to look into the Sanitary Commission in its details—to examine the manner in which it performs its work—to observe the character and efficiency of the agents employed at various points—in particular, to look carefully and critically into its method of forwarding and distributing sanitary stores, and to ascertain what is the per centage of loss, (if any,) between the first receipt of supplies from the Aid Societies, and their final distribution by the Commission to those for whom they are intended. In our investigation we applied to the Commission the same rules of criticism by which any private business is judged.

We followed along the entire line of sanitary operations from Louisville to Kingston, Ga., talking with almost every agent between the two places, examining critically and systematically their books and accounts, inspecting their bills of lading and memoranda of articles shipped, and observing for ourselves in what manner and spirit they disbursed their stores to the hospitals and hospital trains, to soldiers in the "rests" or "homes," and to those *in transitu*.

At Louisville, Nashville, and Chattanooga are the principal depots or bases of supplies, the radiating centres of the Commission. The amount of labor necessarily performed at these points is very arduous, but only the smallest amount of clerical and other force is employed, consistent with the proper and prompt performance of the work; and no man is employed who is not selected and retained, because of his eminent fitness for his position. It would be too much to say that no mistakes are made by the Commission in the selection of its agents, but we think these mistakes are rare.

The distributing agents are more often than otherwise men of education, accustomed to the comforts of home, and the refinements of social life. But in the service of the Commission they endure an amount of discomfort for lack of the means and appliances of living, which negatives the idea that they have accepted their positions for selfish ends. They live in narrow and confined quarters, sleeping three and four in a room, and not unfrequently on boxes and counters, subsisting on fare at times unpleasantly frugal, separated from their families, foregoing society, ignoring recreation and amusement, dwelling in an atmosphere of suffering, turmoil and strife, and forced by the circumstances in which they are placed, to practice patience and forbearance, even after they cease to be virtues. All this must be seen to be appreciated or believed.

These agents keep up with the army, and as it moves forward and takes possession of a place, there the agents follow, with a supply larger or smaller, as is deemed advisable, and if it be a point to which sick or wounded men can be sent, the agency is maintained there, and kept constantly supplied. Where the army encamps in the morning, the Commission has pitched its tent long before night. Operating at the front, a prominent and experienced agent accompanies each division of the army, with wagons, supplies, and such assistance as he may need. The danger and hardship attendant on this employment may be imagined.

As soon as Gen. Sherman began his advance from Chattanooga, the Commission,

anticipating severe fighting, commenced collecting at that point a large surplus of battle supplies, and were thus enabled to render assistance to some five or six thousand wounded men promptly and efficiently. All the wounded that will bear transportation, during the present campaign, are sent as speedily as possible to the more important and well regulated hospitals at Louisville, Nashville, and Chattanooga. They are there placed in circumstances where they are comparatively independent of the Commission—the provisions of government, and the hospital fund, in the main, sufficing for their needs. But on the battle-field, where the wounded soldier sometimes waits for hours his turn to be removed from the rear to the field hospital, or from the ambulance to the hospital train, or where the crowded hospital trains, with their living freight of misery, wait at a station hours for orders to move forward, there the agents of the Commission are systematically at work, supplying the soldier's immediate wants, and furnishing him with the food and stimulants necessary to keep him alive. It is here that the value of the Commission is most vividly realized, and its noble services most gratefully acknowledged.

When one comes to understand what an enormous labor it is to supply the army proper—the fighting men, and their necessary complement of horses, mules, &c.—with food, forage, powder and lead in such a country as that through which Sherman is advancing, and which taxes the government almost beyond description, one realizes the special need of the Commission, and feels that the beneficent work which it is now doing must be left undone were the Commission not in existence, thereby entailing a more fearful loss of life on the country, and a more frightful amount of suffering on her brave defenders.

It is sometimes objected by the captious, that the supplies of the Commission are tardily forwarded to their destination. But we could find no reasonable ground for such a charge. There is, and there has been, at times, difficulty in obtaining transportation, which becomes more serious as the army advances farther from its base of supplies, arising from the fact that government taxes to the utmost all the means of

transportation, in maintaining the army in good fighting condition. But there is no delay in the transmission of sanitary stores that is not shared by the stores of the Government; while, wherever there is a lack of railroad facilities, the Commission pushes on its supplies by means of wagons.

The railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga, built before the war, was badly constructed, poorly ballasted, and intended only for small travel. Of course it is now inadequate to the carrying of the immense supplies for Sherman's army, and accidents, repairs and delays are inevitable. Six miles an hour is about the highest rate of speed attained; and then, on either side, are seen, strewn along the road, wrecks of cars and locomotives, smashed in every conceivable manner, telling of some fearful accident, or guerrilla fight. Impossibilities should not be demanded of the Government or the Commission; and the only matter of wonder is, under all the circumstances, that transportation to the front of Sherman's army is as rapid and safe as it is.

So also of the loss and waste of supplies. It would, of course, be too much to say that nothing is lost. But our examination led us to the conclusion that we had, in our statements, overestimated the percentage of waste, misappropriation, and loss in transmission. Almost universally supplies reach the different points of distribution nearly to the full measure in which they are sent, and the loss and waste are, at the largest, not over six per cent. of the supplies. The nurses in the hospitals are very generally convalescent soldiers, with perhaps one or more women to act as matrons, or to have charge of the linen department. If, not yet robust, and still unfit for duty with their regiments, these soldier nurses sometimes use sanitary stores, they must not be too severely blamed, for it must be remembered that they also need recuperation and strength, in common with their feeble patients.

At Chattanooga the Commission has under cultivation an immense vegetable garden for the use of the hospitals. There are 200 acres in all—160 in vegetables, and 40 in grapes; the land being that of an abandoned plantation. It is worked by detailed soldiers, one company being station-

ed as guards, with 20 or 30 horses and mules for plowing and teaming, all without charge to the Commission, except for head gardener's wages and cost of seed. Its worth to the hospitals is almost beyond computation. Several thousand bushels of green vegetables have already been distributed to the hospitals from this garden, and it will continue productive to the very last of the season. A similar garden is cultivated at Knoxville, and other places.

The hospital cars for the transportation of the sick and wounded men, are also due to the genius and benevolence of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Imagine a car a little wider than the ordinary one, placed on springs, and having on each side three tiers of berths or cots, suspended by rubber bands. These cots are so arranged as to yield to the motion of the car, thereby avoiding that jolting experienced even on the smoothest and best kept road. There are usually several of these cars in a hospital train, with the surgeon's car in the middle. The car is divided into three compartments; at one end is the store room, where are kept the eatables and bedding; at the other, the kitchen; and between the two the surgeon's room, containing his bed, secretary, and shelves and pigeon holes for instruments, medicines, &c. A narrow hall connects the store room and kitchen, and great windows or openings in the opposite sides of the car give a pleasant draft of air.

The men come on at evening, selected from the different hospitals, according to their ability to be moved, and after having had their tea, the wounds have to be freshly dressed. This takes till midnight, perhaps longer, and the surgeon must be on the watch continually, for on him falls the responsibility, not only of the welfare of the men, but of the safety of the train. There is a conductor and brakeman, and for them, too, there is no rest. Each finds enough to do as nurse or assistant. In the morning, after a breakfast of delicious coffee or tea, dried beef, dried peaches, soft bread, cheese, &c., the wounds have to be dressed a second time, and again in the afternoon, a third. As the trains arrive at Kingston, Dalton, Resaca, and other points agents are waiting its arrival, who have

been telegraphed of its coming, having with them a supply of food, drink, and clothing for the men, which they distribute to the poor fellows as they have need.

The Hospital Directory, located at Louisville, is another department of the Commission, which is of unspeakable value. Its specialty has been so often described, and is so well understood and appreciated, as to need no words of ours at this time. Daily the agents of the Directory answer hundreds of inquiries, by letter or telegraph, concerning sick or wounded soldiers, whose whereabouts is lost to their friends at home; and the anxiety, which is thus relieved, cannot be computed.

There is extreme good feeling between the Medical Department and the Commission, the former rendering the latter every possible aid in prosecution of their humane work. The greatest courtesy is also shown to the representatives of the Sanitary Commission by the army and railroad employees, who facilitate their labors in every way within their power.

In conclusion, we would say, that our visit to the Commission, not only at its head-quarters, but throughout its various departments, gave us the greatest satisfaction. Any waste, or loss, or evils attendant on the workings of the Commission, are not worth mentioning, compared with the good accomplished. We have returned, happy in our connection with this colossal humanitarian movement, proud of the good it is accomplishing, and satisfied with its efficiency, honesty and usefulness.

E. B. McCAGO, *President.*

E. W. BLATCHFORD, *Treas.*

N. W. Sun. *Commission.*

June 15th, 1864.

COUNTY COUNCILS.

We have received the official report of a County Council recently held at Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York. It was composed of delegates from the various Soldiers' Aid Societies, and as this is the first one of the kind we have heard of, we publish the entire report, hoping thereby to incite similar gatherings throughout the country. We commend it to the serious consideration of our readers, and hope the plan may be generally adopted. From per-

sonal experience of the Branch Councils, held in Washington by the Sanitary Commission, we know how pleasant and how stimulating it is to meet and shake hands with those who have been united in the same great and good work which has so grown into our hearts and lives these past years.

The following is the letter of invitation addressed to the Presidents of the Soldiers' Aid Societies:

June 18th, 1864.

MADAM—In accordance with the suggestion contained in the Third Annual Report of the Woman's Central Association of Relief, it is proposed to hold a County Council of the Soldiers' Aid Societies of Westchester and Putnam Counties, at Tarrytown, July 5th, at 10 o'clock, A. M. This day has been selected, as a very large Fair for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers, will be held at Tarrytown during the week, and many delegates would probably attend it.

It is requested that short reports be presented by each Society of what has been accomplished since the beginning of the war; but the main object will be "to diffuse information about the work and the wants of the Sanitary Commission as fully and widely as possible," and to bring into personal contact the earnest workers for this cause. We ask that you will lay this proposition before your Society, and send to the meeting five delegates. We shall be glad to see, beside these, any persons interested in the cause.

The meeting will be held in the basement of Christ's Church, Tarrytown.

MRS. PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT,
*Assoc. Manager W. C. R. A. for Putnam Co.
and Northern Westchester Co.*

MISS G. B. SCHUYLER,
Assoc. Manager for Southern Westchester Co.

MISS FANNY ARNOLD,
Assoc. Manager for Eastern Westchester Co.

REPORT:

County Council of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Westchester and Putnam Counties, N. Y.

The First Council of the Soldiers' Relief Societies of the Counties of Westchester and Putnam convened at Christ Church, in Tarrytown, on the 5th of July inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt, and Mrs. G. Hilton Scribner was appointed secretary.

The roll of the Societies in the two counties was then called, when it was found that the So-

cieties of the following places were represented by delegates in the Council, viz.:

SING SING—No. of delegates, 5—Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Pentz, Mrs. Cox, Miss Carpenter, and Mrs. Cunningham.

GARRISON—No. of delegates, 2—Mrs. Belcher and Mrs. Livingston.

TARRYTOWN UNION RELIEF SOCIETY—No. of delegates, 4—Mrs. Knowlton, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Rydset, and Miss C. Wilson.

TARRYTOWN SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY OF REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH—No. of delegates, 2—Miss Cobb and Miss Thompson.

PEEKSKILL—No. of delegates, 3—Mrs. D. L. Seymour, Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. Husky.

YORKTOWN—No. of delegates, 2—Mrs. Tompkins and Miss Tompkins.

IRVINGTON—No. of delegates, 4—Mrs. Irving, Miss Irving, Mrs. Crosby, and Mrs. Sturgis.

WHITE PLAINS—No. of delegates, 4—Mrs. Berrian, Mrs. Clapp, Miss Underhill, and Mrs. Fisher.

DOBBS FERRY—No. of delegates, 3—Mrs. Ackerman, Miss Light, and Miss Hotchkiss.

YONKERS—No. of delegates, 5—Mrs. Everett Clapp, Miss M. Walsh, Mrs. Justus Lawrence, Mrs. Brett, and Mrs. G. Hilton Scribner.

Each Society was then called upon to report. The reports of the several Societies show them to be in a prosperous condition as regards finances, the amount of work accomplished, and the good feeling existing between the earnest co-workers in the cause.

It was peculiarly refreshing for these delegates from the various societies to meet and each gather encouragement from the stimulating example of the others in this great work, wherein woman may show at once her sympathy with suffering humanity, and her love of country. The White Plains Society deserves especial mention from the fact that they have been contending with many discouragements, but have still kept the good work moving.

The Alert Clubs form a prominent feature in some of the Societies, and seem to be a most decided success, well worthy recommendation. We were happily surprised at the large number of articles of clothing made in all these Societies. Many hands must have worked diligently to have accomplished so much.

After the reading of the Reports, the President read a most interesting and pithy letter from Miss G. B. Schnyder, depicting in graphic terms the sacrifices made by our sisters in the West, compared with whose noble deeds our own seemed to pale into insignificance.

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, Medical Inspector under Gen. Rosecrans, was then introduced, and addressed the Council, giving us his experiences from the first battle of Bull Run down to a recent date, showing the great sufferings that necessarily followed every battle, before the alleviating hand of the Sanitary Commission was stretched forth, and the comparative comforts that the suffering soldiers now enjoy as the blessed fruit of its noble work.

The Doctor was interrogated as to the workings of the Sanitary Commission, all of which interrogatories were satisfactorily answered. Some questions were also asked relative to the efficiency of the Christian Commission. A brief discussion then ensued touching the following subjects:

1st. As to the proper mode of organizing and conducting Alert Clubs as auxiliaries to the Societies.

2d. As to whether the several Societies composing this Council, when considered as branches of the Woman's Central Relief Association, are subordinate to or co-ordinate with that Association, in their powers of contributing directly to any object deemed worthy of their support.

Upon this suggestion of the President, the thanks of the Council were unanimously tendered to Dr. Hamilton for his able and enlightened address before the Council, after which, on motion, the Council adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday of October, with the Society at Sing Sing.

Mrs. PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Pres't.*

Mrs. G. HILTON SCRIBNER, *Sec'y.*

We annex the report of the Society which, upon comparison with the others, was found to have accomplished the greatest amount of work in proportion to its population.

Annual Report of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Irvington, Westchester County, N. Y., June 16th, 1864:

OFFICERS.

Mrs. JOHN E. WILLIAMS, *President.*

Mrs. OSCAR IRVING,	} <i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
" J. J. BANTA,	
" CROSBY,	
" WOODFORD,	
MISS MULHOLLEN,	

MISS SARAH IRVING, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

OFFICERS OF ALERT CLUB:

Mrs. STURGIS, *President.*

MISS STORROW, *Secretary.*

MISS LYDIA BROWN, *Treasurer.*

REPORT:

There have been made and sent to the Woman's Central Association of Relief, Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, during the year:

Cotton Drawers	473 pairs.
Flannel "	709 "
Socks	77 "
Slippers	53 "
Sheets	523
Arm Slings	44
Thread Cases	16

Whole number of articles, 1895

Also, a quantity of handkerchiefs, lint, old linen and cotton, books, magazines and newspapers; also, a large amount of dried fruits, jellies, pickles, currant shrub and raspberry vinegar, backgammon boards and dominoes.

The number of members at the present time is 44, being an increase of 10 since the commencement of the present organization.

The weekly average attendance of members of the Society for the whole year is 33.

It will be remembered that work for our sick and wounded soldiers has been going on in this village from the commencement of the war, but

owing to the imperfect system of the earlier efforts, less was accomplished in two years than has now been performed in one.

For our present most successful plan of organization, we are indebted to the Women's Central Association of Relief, 10 Cooper Union, N. Y. (See SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN, No. 12.)

EUNICE WILLIAMS, President.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The receipts in money during the past year have been from

Alert Club Subscription.....	\$635 21
Donations.....	417 36
Net Proceeds of "The Fair".....	1,717 39
Sale of Rags.....	3 00

Total.....\$2,772 96

Expended for materials.....\$2,341 11

Sent to Treasurer of Sanitary Commission.....300 00

Total.....\$2,641 11

Balance on hand.....\$131 85

As we have had no other expenses, the whole amount of funds received has been applied directly to the objects of the Society, and, we trust, in the most economical manner.

SARAH IRVING, Treasurer.

We understand that the population of the village of Irvington numbers about 800. In comparing this report with what has been done in other parts of the State of New York, the peculiar advantage of these suburban villages of New York City, as regards wealth, should be taken into consideration.

IN MEMORIAM.

It is our melancholy duty to record in this number of the BULLETIN the death of four Agents of the Commission; three, Mrs. Gen. Berlow, Prof. Hadley, of Union Theological Seminary, and Mr. G. C. Edgerley, stricken down by disease, induced by severe and long continued labors in an unfriendly climate, and one, William Wilson, wounded by a shot from the enemy's battery, while on board the Commission's supply steamer, and dying in a few hours.

To give testimony, as observers, to the Christian devotion of these noble friends of our suffering soldiers, is a duty willingly performed, for we have taken note from week to week of their fidelity which counted self-denial a delight, if only life to the living could be made tolerable, and death to the dying more peaceful. Their works do follow them.

Like brave soldiers they have fallen at their posts. Many to whom they brought succor and relief still live, and we wish it were in our power to record here their tearful tribute of

thanks for those tender ministrations, bringing comfort and cheering the long night watches.

Dr. Douglas, the Associate Secretary in charge at the front sends us the following brief notice:

PROFESSOR HADLEY.

Professor Hadley arrived at City Point the last of June, and was immediately assigned to duty among the relief agents of the Commission, attached to the depot hospital of the Ninth Army Corps. His devotedness was the remark of all with whom he was associated. Laboring early and late throughout the day, and often throughout the night, going wherever duty called him, unmindful of fatigue, or the exhausting character of his labors, in a climate and a season alone sufficient to tax the powers of the strongest constitution, he toiled on with an earnestness and energy which was a part of his nature, until sickness overtook him. Unwilling to leave the field, he lingered among the hospitals, eager to return to work, struggling against fever, and hoping for a renewal of strength, till the advice of his medical attendant pointed the way to a return home, as the surest means of recovery. It was on his return home, August 2d, (just after arrival of transport at Washington,) that his exhausted nature gave way, and he sank into an early grave.

The following is handed us by a Relief Agent, Rev. E. A. Smith, who accompanied Prof. Hadley to the army, and was with him at the time of his death:

Prof. H. was assigned to duty with the Relief Agents of the 9th Corps' Hospital. There he continued from June 30th, the time of his arrival, until his final sickness.

The great characteristic of his life there was his quiet, incessant working. He said so little of what he saw and did, that we can get an idea of his work only from incidental clues. One of these was, that he was very seldom seen resting himself, or lounging about the store tent. We saw him rather going in and out of his wards, or coming to our tent, getting what supplies he needed, and going quickly back again. *He never went to the front.* The enthusiasm which has at sometime impelled most of us to go, that we could take home stories of bullets and shells, never seemed to influence him. He came to work, not to see. This he acted, though he never said it. Great eagerness was shown during his sickness by certain of his former patients, to be of service to him in turn. During his passage on the hospital boat, it was pleasant to see certain of the sick stop as they recognized their former "Sanitary man," and ask after his welfare. As

they inquired more about him they were surprised to learn his profession. The conversation with them had always been such that they had never suspected their having a Hebrew Professor for a "Sanitary."

He seemed to be so occupied in thought with the suffering that he could not relieve—that he never seemed to consider what he had done, and never seemed disposed to criticise others uncharitably.

In one case, when a newly appointed nurse showed himself grossly unfit for his place, Prof. H. said very little about it to others, but set himself to work to make up the short comings. His habit was to remedy evils and not to declaim about them. It was on this occasion that Prof. H. brought on him his last sickness. His repeated watchings with a lad sick with typhoid fever, so prostrated him he never rallied. This illness we all expected would pass off in a day or so, but it soon took the form of a fever, and it was decided that he must return home. He began the journey under as favorable conditions as one could choose for a sick friend. The steamer Connecticut is as comfortable a boat and as much filled with the atmosphere of kindness as one would think possible for a hospital boat. The first day Prof. H. seemed to improve, but on the next sank so rapidly, that by noon he had ceased to breathe. His body was taken charge of by the Sanitary Commission, and after being embalmed, was forwarded to his friends, who met it at New York. He was buried in New Haven, on Thursday, August 4.

The New York Evening Post, August 8, says:

The sad intelligence comes from Fortress Monroe of the death of Professor Henry Hamilton Hadley, of the Union Theological Seminary in this city, while on his way from the front, where his health had become shattered in the discharge of his arduous duties as a relief agent of the Sanitary Commission with the Army of the Potomac. Among the many noble lives that have been laid upon the country's altar in this war none was a costlier sacrifice than his, though none has been more freely offered. A ripe scholar, an accomplished instructor, and an earnest Christian patriot, he counted his life as nothing, if it could advance the cause in which his sympathy was so warmly engaged.

Professor Hadley was a son of President Hadley, of Geneva College in this State, and a younger brother of Professor James Hadley, of Yale College. He was graduated at Yale in the class of 1847 with all the highest academic and literary honors of his class, and even now his remarkable ability and the ease with which he carried off the palm in all the college contests for superiority are traditions in that institution. He subsequently studied divinity in New Haven, and became a tutor in the under graduate department of the college in 1850, which position he occupied for about three years.

Many men, under whose eye this brief notice will fall, will remember with affection the slight, delicate looking little tutor of Greek and Mathematics of their Freshman and Sophomore years in college, and the respect he commanded by his profound scholarship and sound judgment.

At a later period, he was Professor of Hebrew at Yale Divinity School, and at the Union Theological Seminary in New York, alternating between the two places—but he finally resigned the former position, and held the latter at the time of his death. His whole heart was enlisted in the cause of his country, and he was on one or two occasions only deterred from entering the service as a private by the earnest representations of his friends of the consequences that would result to one of so delicate a constitution as his. He sent a substitute every year, however, and finally unable to endure inaction longer, entered the service of the Sanitary Commission, and devoting himself to his duties with all the earnestness and energy of his nature, sank under them into an early grave. The country can ill afford to lose such men, but the cause is doubly hallowed that receives the sacrifice of a life so upright and noble.

MRS. BARLOW.

Died at Washington, July 27, 1864, Mrs. Abella Griffith Barlow, wife of Brigadier General Francis C. Barlow, of fever contracted while in attendance upon the hospitals of the Army of the Potomac, at the front.

With the commencement of the present campaign she became attached to the Sanitary Commission, and entered upon her sphere of active work during the pressing necessity for willing hands and earnest hearts, at Fredericksburg. The zeal, the activity, the ardent loyalty and the scornful indignation for everything disloyal she then displayed, can never be forgotten by those whose fortune it was to be with her on that occasion. Ever watchful of the necessities of that trying time, her mind, fruitful in resources, was always busy in devising means to alleviate the discomforts of the wounded, attendant upon so vast a campaign within the enemy's country, and her hand was always ready to carry out the devices of her mind.

Many a fractured limb rested upon a mattress improvised from materials sought out and brought together from no one knew where but the earnest sympathizing woman who is now no more.

At Fredericksburg she labored with all her heart and mind. The sound of battle in which her husband was engaged, floating back from Chancellorsville, stimulated her to constant exertions. She faltered not an instant. Remaining till all the wounded had been removed from Fredericksburg, she left with the last hospital transport for Fort Royal, where she again aided

in the care of the wounded, as they were brought in at that point. From thence she went to White House, on one of the steamers then in the service of the Commission, and immediately going to the front, labored there in the hospitals, after the battle of Cold Harbor. From White House she passed to City Point, and arrived before the battles in front of Petersburg. Going directly to the front, she labored there with the same energy and devotion she had shown at Fredericksburg and White House.

Of strong constitution, she felt capable of enduring all things for the cause she loved; but long-continued toil, anxiety and privation prepared her system for the approach of fever, which eventually seized upon her.

Yielding to the solicitation of friends she immediately returned to Washington, where, after a serious illness of several weeks, she, when apparently convalescing, relapsed, and fell another martyr to a love of country. J. H. D.

The following extract from a private letter expresses the grateful emotions of many families whose loved ones came under Mrs. Barlow's devoted care:

"We were shocked to hear yesterday of Mrs. Gen. Barlow's death. We knew Mrs. Barlow well, and have felt a peculiar interest in her, as she was with my cousin the night before he died, after Gettysburg, ministering most tenderly to him. She and her heroic husband have presented a rare picture of unselfish patriotism ever since the commencement of the war; it is such examples which incite anew our faith in the holiness and final triumph of our cause."

We add two notices which have appeared in the papers. The initials will be recognized as those of Dr. Francis Lieber, of Columbia College:

To the Editors of the Evening Post:

I received yesterday a telegraphic despatch informing me of the death of Mrs. Gen. Barlow. She died yesterday morning of typhus fever at Washington.

Mrs. Barlow, (Arabella Griffith before she married,) was a highly cultivated lady, full of life, spirit, activity and charity.

General Barlow entered as private one of our New York volunteer regiments at the beginning of the war. The evening before he left New York for Washington with his regiment, they were married in the Episcopal Church in Lafayette Place. Barlow rose, and as Lieutenant Colonel, made the Peninsular campaign under General McClellan. He was twice severely wounded, the last time at Antietam. Since then we have always read his name most honorably mentioned, whenever Major-General Hancock's corps was spoken of. Mrs. Barlow in the meantime

entered the Sanitary service. In the Peninsular campaign she was one of those ladies who worked hard and nobly, close to the battle-field, as close indeed as they were permitted to do. When her husband was wounded she attended, of course, upon him. In the present campaign of General Grant she has been at Belle Plain, White House, and everywhere where our good Sanitary Commission has comforted the dying and rescued the many wounded from the grave, which they would otherwise have found. The last time I heard of her she was at White House, and now I am informed that she died of typhus fever in Washington. No doubt she contracted the malignant disease in performing her hallowed and self-imposed duty in the field.

Her friends will mourn at the removal from this life of so noble a being. All of us are the poorer for her loss; but our history has been enriched by her death. Let it always be remembered as one of those details which, like single pearls, make up the precious string of history, and which a patriot rejoices to contemplate and to transmit like inherited jewels to the rising generations. Let us remember, as American men and women, that here we behold a young advocate, highly honored for his talents by all who knew him. He joins the citizen army of his country as a private, rises to command, is wounded again and again, and found again and again at the head of his regiment or division, in the fight where decision centres. And here is his bride—accomplished, of the fairest features, beloved and sought for in society—who divests herself of the garments of fashion, and becomes the assiduous nurse in the hospital and on the field, shrinking from no sickening sight, and fearing no typhus—that dreadful enemy, which in war follows the wings of the angel of death, like the fever-bearing currents of air—until she, too, is laid on the couch of the camp, and bidden to rest from her weary work, and to let herself be led by the angel of death to the angel of life. God bless her memory to our women, our men, our country.

There are many glories of a righteous war. It is glorious to fight or fall, to bleed or to conquer, for so great and good a cause as ours; it is glorious to go to the field in order to help and to heal, to fan the fevered soldier and to comfort the bleeding brother, and thus helping, may be to die with him the death for our country. Both these glories have been vouchsafed to the bridal pair. F. L.

The *Herald* correspondent, writing from Petersburg, July 31, says:

General Miles is temporarily in command of the First Division during the absence of General Barlow, who has gone home for a few days for the purpose of burying his wife. The serious loss which the gallant young general and an extensive circle of friends in social life have sustained by the death of Mrs. Barlow, is largely shared by the soldiers of this army. She smoothed the dying pillow of many patriotic soldiers before she received the summons to follow them herself; and many a surviving hero who has languished in army hospitals will tenderly cherish the memory of her saintly ministrations when they were writhing with the pain of

wounds received in battle or lost in the delirium of consuming fevers.

MR. G. C. EDGERLEY.

[Extract of a letter from Dr. E. A. Crane, dated New Orleans, July 20, 1864.]

I have already alluded in some of my communications to the Central Office—if not to yourself, to the illness of several members of our corps, resulting from overwork and exposure, while in the discharge of the duties in which they have engaged. While most have recovered, and are now in the enjoyment of a fair measure of health, I am exceedingly pained to be compelled to announce to you the death of one of our most valued agents, Mr. G. C. Edgerley.

He returned to this city from Cairo on the hospital transport, N. W. Thomas, feeble rather than sick, convalescent from an attack of measles, contracted during the voyage up the river. His symptoms were neither regarded by himself or others as likely to prove serious, until a few days previous to his death, when by our advice he went to the "Home," where we were better able to render to him that service, attention and good nursing, which we believed to be chiefly essential to his recovery.

While at the "Home" he grew rapidly worse, and continued to sink until the morning of the 15th instant, when he quietly and peacefully left us for that brighter and better world, where there is no more pain and trouble, and all is peace.

Mr. Edgerley was always regarded as one of our most valuable and efficient employees, and his loss is one which falls heavily upon us, as also upon the large circle of friends and the many acquaintances he had formed while in the discharge of his duties as Agent of the Commission.

To you as well as to us, it may be a satisfaction to know, that nothing was spared which might contribute to his well-being and comfort while sick—that dying he was surrounded by those whom he knew and loved best—that the last sacred offices of burial were conducted in the presence of friends, who had learned to know him, to esteem him, and to love him.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune, under date of July 26th, thus alludes to Mr. Edgerley's death:

The Commission lately met with a serious loss, in the person of Mr. Edgerley, of New Hampshire, who came to this city a year ago, and has labored since in the work of the Commission, with unflagging assiduity and zeal. He was taken sick while engaged in taking care

of the sick and wounded on board the hospital boat N. W. Thomas, while on her way hence to Cairo, a few weeks since, and returned to this city soon afterward to die. His loss is much regretted by the Sanitary Commission, and by many friends in this city, as well as among the soldiers whom he had ministered to in the army.

In so noble a work it seems almost an enviable thing thus to die with the harness on one's back.

J. B. C.

WILLIAM WILSON.

William Wilson was a resident of this city. He was probably the youngest in the Relief Corps, and on applying to enter the service of the Commission, was considered too young, but he manifested such an appreciation of the proposed duties, that he was accepted. He did not disappoint our expectations, and the record he made for himself in a good work may well be a consoling thought to his parents and friends in this great bereavement.

We add a letter from Dr. Parrish, giving somewhat in detail the circumstances attending the attack on the steamer, on which William Wilson was fatally wounded:

CITY POINT, Va., August 4, 1864.

TO J. FOSTER JENKINS, M. D., General Secretary,
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—I have to record a sad accident in the history of the Commission. In consequence of the extreme heat of the weather, and of the over-worked condition of everybody who will and can work, since the battle of Saturday last, I determined to give as many of our agents as could be relieved, an excursion up the river, and directed that the tug-boat should be in readiness at two o'clock to-day for that purpose.

I went with the boat to the hospital landing, and received on board the S. E. Brown about twenty of our Relief Corps, three ladies, and a number of invalid soldiers, placed them and the boat under the guidance of Dr. Swalm, and bade them a good trip for their health on the James.

When about seven miles above City Point, they were fired upon by guerrillas from the shore, and before they could receive the protection of the gun boats, two of our valuable co-laborers were seriously injured, and the engineer of the boat instantly killed.

1. G. Mayo, of Milo, Piscataqua County, Maine. Ball passed into the left side, just above the hip, injuring somewhat the crest of the illium, and creating much suffering. Mr. Mayo is doing well.

2. William Wilson, No. 68 Grove Street, New York City. Ball passed through the right illium, entering the peritoneal cavity, and perhaps will terminate fatally. (Since dead.)

3. John Hamlin, Engineer, Brooklyn, shot through the head, and killed immediately.

I must acknowledge gratefully the unremitting attention of Dr. Thomas Haigh, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and Dr. T. W. Swalm, both of whom accompanied the excursion, and did much toward the relief of the suffering. They were supplied with bandages, lint, etc., from the gunboat Pignot, and were accompanied to Bermuda Hundred by the Commodore Morris, under the command of Capt. R. G. Lee.

Poor Hamlin's body was carried to the hospital landing, and will be embalmed under the direction of Mr. F. B. Fay. It awaits orders.

The boat was sailing under the Sanitary Commission flag, and the ladies were sitting on the bow, in full view of the shore. The wicked daring of the attack is characteristic of the foe, whom we have fed and nourished as our own men, when they have been suffering and helpless.

Yours respectfully,

JOSEPH PARRISH,
Acting Associate Secretary.

FIELD RELIEF CORPS.

HOSPITAL 5TH CORPS, July 25, 1864.

Following instructions of Dr. Jenkins, General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission, which were received during a brief visit to my home, I reported to you on my arrival at City Point, on the 25th ultimo, to resume my duties as Superintendent of the Field Relief. The absence from the storehouse of several efficient assistants, making my presence at that place desirable, it was not until the 8th of July, that I returned to the front.

Since then my time has been fully occupied in the duties connected with the very large distribution of vegetables and other supplies, and in an effort under your instructions to make this Commission better known to the soldiers, as the ever ready and liberal almoner of the bounty of the country. To secure this latter object, an agent has been assigned to each division of the Field Hospital of every corps, whose time is to be devoted to such assistance to and intercourse with the patients, as will best promote their comfort, whilst his continued presence and observation will tend to correct whatever inclination may exist on the part of the hospital attendants, to misapply the articles obtained from the Commission. At present this field of labor is comparatively unproductive, owing to the small number of

cases under treatment, and the convalescent condition of a large portion of these. The wounded, of whom there have been but few recently, are generally removed to the hospitals near City Point.

Should an engagement fill these field hospitals, there will be abundant opportunity for efficient service by the entire corps. It is to be regretted that the gentlemen sent here for this duty are prepared to give so short a time to its discharge, as a familiar acquaintance with the Surgeons and attachés greatly increases their opportunities for usefulness, and experience adds so much to their ability. It having been deemed by you advisable to make our issues of vegetables to the troops in the trenches more direct and with greater liberality, I commenced with the extreme left wing of the army, and arranged to issue orders on our supplies at City Point, in favor of the Commissaries of the 1st and 2d Divisions of the Sixth Corps. The march of these troops during the ensuing night to Harper's Ferry, prevented the execution of our plan. This was on Saturday, July 9th. The ration proposed, and afterwards given to other corps, was one pint of pickles to every man in the front.

On the following day, one hundred barrels of pickles were turned over to the Corps Commissary of the Second Corps; on the 11th of July, the same amount was delivered pro rata to the Commissaries of Division and Artillery Brigade of the Fifth Corps. About the same time the Ninth Corps was supplied through Dr. Stevens, with one hundred barrels each of vegetables and pickles. During the same day I called on General Martindale, in command of the 18th Corps. He appeared to approve very highly of the distribution of this class of supplies, and issued an order, to be read to the troops, stating that the Sanitary Commission had delivered a ration of a pint of pickles to every man in the corps; this consumed an additional hundred barrels.

It is probable that this order never reached the troops in the trenches, but its publication did good, and showed the animus of the General.

On my way next morning to Point of Rocks, I met Dr. McDonald, and learning from him that a supply of fresh vegeta-

bles were subject to my order at City Point, I added them to the distribution for the 10th Corps, making out orders for eighty-eight barrels of pickles and one hundred barrels of vegetables. This completed one full issue of pickles to the entire army, and of vegetables to the 9th and 10th Corps.

General Butler issued an order somewhat similar to that of General Martindale. For supplies distributed since that issue, a tabular statement is appended.

The same liberality that has marked our distribution of vegetables to the troops, has been extended to the sick in the Field Hospitals, and to those who while unable to do duty are not ordered to the rear.

Weekly visits to the front lines by the Field Agent, have brought the supplies of the Sanitary Commission prominently before the Surgeons on duty, and enabled us to meet with preventives a large number of cases that otherwise might have proved serious. These visits have shown us, that the distribution of supplies has reached the men in the trenches, and been of great benefit to them.

Relief Agents have been assigned to the various Army Corps, one to each Division Hospital, as stated, and efforts have been made through them, and by the direct action of the Superintendent, to encourage a liberal, yet prudent application of sanitary stores. In many instances, supplies of fruits or vegetables of a delicate character were received, in smaller quantities than were required for issue to the troops. These were divided among the various hospitals, to the great satisfaction, we may hope, of all the inmates.—*Superintendent Johnson's Report.*

HEROIC BRAVERY—THE BROKEN FLAGSTAFF.

Dr. Marsh, Sanitary Commission Inspector in South Carolina, relates the following incident connected with the late military movement which he accompanied:

"The enemy having got the range of our flagstaff, cut the halyards by a piece of shell, and the flag fell immediately. Private Tibbitts, Company M, Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, seized the fallen flag, climbed the staff, and holding to it with one arm, with the opposite hand held the flag to its place, until new halyards were obtained and the flag secured; the enemy meanwhile firing."

BLACKBERRIES.

In addition to the frequent calls for preparations of Blackberry, we are advised from our issuing storehouses to repeat the appeal, as the demand is rapidly increasing, and will continue through all the winter as well as summer months.

The Dried Fruit will be of the greatest value, and many families who cannot afford to purchase the sugar needed in preparation of the Wine and Syrup, and much less the Spirits for Blackberry Brandy, can collect many pounds of the fruit and dry it.

Of the four preparations Brandy is the most valuable; it being less exposed to fermentation, and in most cases more highly prized by the Surgeons. The loss on the Wine and Syrup, through fermentation after bottling, is large and it is desirable that the Branches do not relax their efforts to secure more perfect preparation and packing, and increase, if necessary, the unwelcome labor of carefully examining every bottle before repacking. Such expenditure of time and money is true economy, as a glance at many boxes of empty or broken bottles with the bills for their transportation, would convince any observer. We would suggest that the Aid Societies during the fruit season, take up the manufacture of the Wine, or Brandy, or Syrup, collecting the fruit from the country in their vicinities, and making the articles and packing under their own direction, or employing a skillful person for the work.

Much might well be put up in kegs instead of bottles.

It is advisable that if a good stock is secured, the Societies put in store a portion of it, three-quarters at least, for issue during the winter and spring months, when the risk of loss through fermentation is much less. The motion and exposure connected with transportation, it will be remembered, stimulate the fermenting process.

For A report on the "Work of Relief in Grant's Army," on p. 585 (No. 19) of BULLETIN, was erroneously attributed to Mr. Smith, instead of Dr. T. B. Smith, one of our old and valued inspectors.

Issues of Anti-Scurbutics at City Point, Va., during July, 1864.

3,520 bbls. potatoes.	54 bbls. curried cabbage.
56 " fresh tomatoes.	8,930 heads fresh "
780 boxes " "	363 bbls. fresh beets.
100 000 lbs. canned "	133 " " turnips.
67 bbls. pickled "	68 " " beans.
2,600 bbls. fresh onions.	6 " " peas.
12 boxes "	152 " assorted vegetables
448 bbls. pickled onions.	27 " green apples.
1,480 bbls. " cucumbers.	451 " dried "
306 " sour kraut.	11 " cranberries.

HOSPITALS AT WASHINGTON.

Mr. Caldwell reports:

Sir—From April 1st to this date, (June 24th,) of my resignation of my position in the service of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, I have made one hundred and eighty-eight visits to general and post hospitals, in and about Washington, Alexandria and Baltimore. For nearly four weeks between these dates I was, as you know, very closely confined at the desk of the Chief Clerk, and no visitor of the Commission went the rounds of the hospitals.

During the month of April, there was but little call for supplies at the hospital. While I was at the Chief Clerk's desk in May, the calls were large, and some hospitals that for months had needed almost nothing, drew largely upon the Commission.

Since resuming my work of hospital visiting, about three weeks ago, I have dispensed with liberal hand wherever I was satisfied as to the need, and have requested the purchase of many articles not usually supplied by the Commission, such as green cambric for curtains, life-preservers for ring cushions, charcoal powder for a preventive against gangrene, etc. One large Barrack Hospital, newly opened in Alexandria, situated on a plain, bare of trees, has thus been supplied with curtains, that were indispensable for the well being of the patients, and could be obtained in no other way.

In April I began to distribute among the patients in the hospitals a small circular, giving a full account of what is done in the Special Relief Department—so that they might know where to apply for aid in getting claims settled. This will be carried on by my successor, and I know will be of great benefit to the soldiers.

The aid we were able to give so abundantly during these memorable months of May and June, has been gratefully acknowledged by many Surgeons in charge of hospitals.

The demand has been most heavy for head-rests, air-cushions, spit-cups, shirts, drawers and socks, (cotton,) slippers, thin wrappers, blackberry cordial or brandy, brandy, crackers, dried fruits, jellies, lemons, oranges, pickles, porter, ale, sugar, tea, lint, old linen bandages, crutches, fans, slings, stationery, handkerchiefs and towels. Thin wrappers, arm-slings, jellies, bandages and old linen, I have not been able to supply as wanted; none of these articles can be had of the Medical Purveyor, except bandages—and the old cloth bandages of the Commission are greatly preferred by all, to the new cloth ones furnished by Government. I am doing all that I can to induce Surgeons in charge to prevent all possible waste of bandages, and in almost every hospital they are washed, when not from gangrenous wounds.

Of pickles, and particularly pickled cucumbers, we should have a good supply; of Blackberry Cordial or Brandy, and Cherry Rum, we cannot have too much—and the same may be said of head-rests; and I would recommend that the Commission have made for issue "bed-tables"—to put on the bed before the patient, from which to eat, or for writing; a pattern can be found in the Camden Street Hospital, Baltimore.

WHAT THE AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS HAS DONE.

Mr. Fay, the Superintendent, reports:

As Superintendent of the Auxiliary Relief Corps of the Sanitary Commission, I beg leave to submit the following report:

In April I received a request to go to Washington to assist in the organization and take charge of the Auxiliary Corps. Twenty-five gentlemen, mostly students from the Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, Union Theological Seminary, New York, and the General Theological Seminary, New York, were employed for four months' service in this corps. Other gentlemen, volunteers from Boston and vicinity, were sent for and joined the corps, so that it had about forty members when it started for the field. There were 25 Divinity Students, 5 Clergymen, 1 Physician, 1 Professor of Natural History, 1 Teacher, 1 Shipmaster, 1 Editor, 3 Clerks, and 1 Merchant. These men were organized into separate divisions, or squads of six to ten each, under the charge of a captain, who should control their action after being assigned to duty by the Superintendent.

While at Washington the corps were called together repeatedly, for instruction in their duties as nurses, and in general hospital work.

We left Washington, May 10th, on the Rapley, arrived at Belle Plain at night—found wounded men on barges and on shore. Detailed first and second divisions to feed them with crackers and coffee.

In the morning established a feeding station on the shore. Left second division, (10 men) in charge; and the rest of the corps started on food for Fredericksburg. On arrival there found wounded in houses, churches, stores, etc. Reported to Dr. Dalton, and obtained permission to carry out our plan. I immediately detailed four men,

second division, second corps; six men, fourth division, second corps; nine men, first and second divisions, sixth corps; five men, Asylum Hospital, sixth corps, who became at once nurses, cooks, dressers, assistant stewards, etc.

We remained at Fredericksburg seventeen days, during which time twenty thousand wounded men passed through. The Auxiliary Corps served them in trains as they arrived—at the boats, as they were sent away, and also at the cars on the other side of the river, at Falmouth. We were called upon also to furnish nurses on the transports at Washington, which we were able to do.

Our next point was at Port Royal, where we remained but two or three days; about two thousand wounded passing through. A feeding station was established on shore, and this, with the care of trains arriving, covered our labor here.

We next went to White House and established our system of Auxiliary Corps tents and regular field hospitals. It was the first attempt, and was generally successful. We arrived in half an hour after the Medical Director, and established a feeding station in a few hours afterwards. Not less than ten thousand wounded passed through this point. Remained till Sunday, June 12th, when a small party were started in the Rapley, alias James Guy, with a small quantity of supplies, and sent to Fortress Monroe to meet the Superintendent, who had been temporarily absent. We proceeded to Bermuda Hundreds. This, it will be remembered, was before any considerable portion of the army had crossed the James River. Leaving a few supplies here and at Point of Rocks, on the Appomattox, we made headquarters at City Point, which had not then been taken as a base of the Army of the Potomac. Served a few hundred wounded, who came in from the 18th Corps, and sent two or three loads to the front to supply the wounded of the 18th and 2d Corps, which had arrived and been engaged.

When the supplies on the Rapley were nearly exhausted, the other boats and barges not arriving from White House, I went down the river about fifteen miles, to the pontoon over which the army was cross-

ing, and learned that the boats were detained at Fortress Monroe by the Provost Marshal, upon a general order of General Butler. I returned, immediately applied to General Grant, who had then established his headquarters at City Point, and obtained a telegraphic order for all Sanitary boats to be allowed to come up. On the same day, however, you had obtained an order from the Secretary of War to the same effect, and arrived with the boats and barges, and the balance of the Relief Agents. As soon as the hospitals were established at a point about one and a half miles up the Appomattox, the plan of Auxiliary Corps tents was again put in operation, and has continued to the present time, more successfully even than at White House, as we profit by our past experience.

Up to the present time from eight to ten thousand men have arrived at this base, and more or less have been subject to our care.

SYSTEM OF WORK.

The Auxiliary Corps is divided into divisions of six to ten men each, under the command of a captain. Upon the establishment of hospitals, each division is assigned to a corps, and directed to pitch a tent within the limits of the hospital. Requisitions of supplies are made by the captain, which are used by the Superintendent.

This is done daily, or oftener, if needed. It is designed to keep a small assortment of every kind of sanitary supplies in each corps hospital, and that all requisitions upon the supply barge shall come from the captain, rather than from the surgeon. The surgeons of course having permission to draw upon the tent supply at any time. The principal distribution of the goods is made by our own men, who are assigned each to a certain number of tents, with directions to confine his labors to his ward, and to see to the special needs of the patients in that ward. By this system proper distribution of the supplies is secured.

When special diet kitchens, for which the Sanitary Commission furnish cooking stoves, are established for the preparation of farina, corn starch, soups, toast, etc., they are supplied with all needed articles, when the Government supply fails. It

frequently happens that the whole supply comes from the Sanitary Commission's tent. Our men prepare and administer milk punch or lemonade, at regular hours, under the direction of the surgeon. On the arrival of trains of wounded, the Auxiliary Corps are always ready to assist, feeding and otherwise caring for the patients.

By this system we feel confident that every patient will be visited, that his wants and that of the surgeons will become known, and can in due time be met.

Of course, this added facility in obtaining supplies will add largely to the demand, but so the work is wisely done, and the articles confer comfort and save and prolong life, no demand can be too great for the Commission to strive to supply.

We have now at this point a tent in the 2d, 5th, 6th and 9th Corps' Hospitals, and in the Colored Hospital and that of the Cavalry Corps.

In the 10th and 18th Corps, they being in another department, the auxiliary work has not been introduced. In addition to these, we have a feeding station near the hospital landing, designed to feed trains of wounded who come down directly from the field, without passing through the Corps Hospitals, and also to supplement the Corps Stations when a large train arrives at hospital.

FEEDING STATION NEAR BAROES.

To relieve the table of the hotel barge from the large number of calls from hungry soldiers, a station has been established on the shore, where a very simple meal is prepared of hard tack, crackers, coffee, pickles. Since that time, one hundred and fifty to two hundred men have been daily fed, and one day when a division passed by, about seventeen hundred men received more or less aid from the tent. There is no eating house here, and many men who are left in charge of stores or horses, or are dropped here from barges or steamers, and are delayed in getting to their regiment, have need of just this kind of aid. It is not rendered attractive, and none but a hungry man will avail himself of it.

Nearly 300 different men have served in the Auxiliary Corps for a longer or shorter time within the last sixty days.

OUR STANDARD.

I have endeavored to impress upon the minds of the Auxiliary Corps that "home comforts" should be our standard in our efforts for the sick and wounded. Not that we expect to reach or nearly approach it, but let us keep it constantly before us. If one of these wounded men were our brother and were in our own home, how many hours of how many members of our family and of the neighborhood would be devoted to his comfort? He is "somebody's brother;" more, he is *ours*, suffering for us, and because he is uncomplaining and content with little, shall we cease our attentions? The American citizen gives little, who gives only his time, his money, or his sympathy in this hour, compared with the soldier who gives his life or his limbs. It is not "sickly sentimentality," it is not "excessive benevolence," that calls upon us to do the *best* we can for these men. It is simple justice.

RELATIONS WITH MEDICAL OFFICERS.

We have every reason to be gratified at the harmonious relations existing between the Commission and the Medical Officers. The Auxiliary Corps have in nearly all instances, been cordially received and encouraged in their work.

I cannot avoid naming Dr. Dalton, Medical Director of all the Hospitals at the several bases, who has not only extended to us the courtesies natural to him as a gentleman, but has granted us almost as many favors officially.

"HOW HAVE WE LIVED?"

At Fredericksburg, I think I may safely say, that more than half the time, a blanket and a floor were the only bed of the Auxiliary Corps. Two empty, unfinished, unclean houses were obtained, swept out and called "Homes." Stewards were appointed from our own number, and a Commissary to provide food. The diet for the first few days was crackers, farina, and coffee. There was no Government Commissary of whom to purchase, and the larder of the Commission was not extensive. Later, we lived better, but never with any approach to home comforts. On the barges, the table variety has been comparatively good,

the sleeping accommodations not luxurious. (See letter from Rev. Mr. Potter, p. 632.) The men permanently assigned, sleep in the tents at the field hospitals. When there is a change of base a floating home is necessary, as well as for unassigned men, and for those coming and going. Recently, we have had a hotel barge, which is comfortable, though too small.

But all our discomforts have been met by the Auxiliary Corps without complaint, which among so many men is remarkable.

BURIALS.

By reference to report of Rev. Dr. Stone, it appears that we began to superintend the burial of the dead at Fredericksburg, although we had participated in it at Belle Plain with the Christian Commission. Since that time, at Port Royal, White House, and City Point, we have had entire charge, selecting the burial place, performing the service and erecting and marking the head boards. A record is kept and forwarded to the Sanitary Commission Directory, at Washington.

At Belle Plain, Rev. S. H. Thompson officiated; at Fredericksburg, Rev. Dr. Stone; at Port Royal, Rev. Mr. Thompson and Mr. W. H. Holstein; at White House, Mr. Holstein; at City Point, (on first arrival,) Mr. W. P. Webster; at City Point at Hospital, Mr. Holstein. Mr. Holstein has been assisted by Mr. Allen, Mr. Griffith, and Mr. Eggleston. At Port Royal, the burial ground was surrounded by a suitable fence, and a bouquet laid upon every grave!

The whole number buried under our Superintendence at the points named, has been about 600.

We have of late furnished some suitable head-boards, sent from Washington, but there is still great need of them. The graves are numbered and head boards can be erected whenever a supply is obtained. A private accustomed to lettering has been detailed, and this part of the work will be well done.

None have been buried in coffins since the campaign commenced. It is not usually so.

LETTERS.

A letter box has been kept at each Auxiliary Corps' tent and on the barge, and up

to the present time nearly 150,000 letters have been forwarded to Washington in the last sixty days. They have been received whether paid or unpaid, and pre-payment made at the Central Office.

It has been a source of great comfort to the soldiers, and the expenditure is a most wise one. Many of the letters are sent from regiments, being directed to wounded men who have been sent to the rear.

"MILK-PUNCH WAGON."

Appreciating the sufferings of the wounded in being transported in army wagons and ambulances from the field to the base without suitable nourishment or stimulants, I sent from White House out to the front a wagon loaded with crackers, milk, whisky, utensils and empty bottles, and five Relief Agents to meet the incoming trains and distribute in each wagon and ambulance, a bottle of milk-punch and some crackers. It was entirely successful and should be followed hereafter when opportunity offers.

WASHINGTON.

There has always been a great waste of clothing in hospitals, for want of means of washing. They cannot ordinarily be supplied for some weeks by Government. I recommend that the Commission make preparation for a movable washing establishment entire, to be put in operation as soon as a hospital is organized. By it, the whole expense of it could be saved in a single week.

We have already fitted out two small affairs at this point, and Government are adding others, but better preparations should be made for it hereafter.

CONCLUSION.

In behalf of the members of the Auxiliary Corps, I desire to say, that their reports are less numerous and less interesting on account of the nature of the work. Every moment is occupied during the day, and they are too wearied at night to write. Nor do I believe that one can fitly describe his own labor in a work like this, as it seems too much like self-commendation.

They have exhibited a spirit of self-sacrifice, and an earnestness none can question.

The Commission, the community, and the soldiers are deeply indebted to them.

They have continued to labor in these unhealthy localities without desertion. Many have lost their health and been obliged to leave, and are now upon sick beds, hovering between life and death. One, Charles H. Stanley, of Beverley, Mass., has laid down his life, as truly a sacrifice for his country, as the men who die upon the field. He was a devoted worker, fell sick from over-exertion at Belle Plain, went to Washington on furlough, returned too soon, was immediately sent to his home, but lived only ten hours after his arrival. Appropriate resolutions were passed by the Corps upon receipt of notice of his death. (See BULLETIN, No. 18, p. 568.)

Let us cherish his memory, as one, who in his efforts to save the lives of others lost his own.

We subjoin copious extracts from the reports of various members of the corps—all volunteers—serving under Mr. Fay's direction:

DR. NEILSON.

SCENES ON THE "NEW WORLD."

I arrived at City Point, Va., on the 21st of June, 1864, and immediately tendered my services to the Acting Relief Agent for the Commission. He accepted my offer, and requested me to proceed at once to the steamer *New World*, (then used as a Government hospital ship,) with a number of nurses, dressers, etc. Went accordingly, and found the steamer, a large three-story boat, was crowded by the sick and wounded. Cots were placed as close as could be together, leaving barely room for the attendants to pass between the rows—even the little state-rooms, close, and not ventilated at all, contained each four patients. In fact, the whole boat was crowded to excess, the number of Government attendants were limited and overworked, and I can say that, had it not been for the Sanitary, the amount of suffering would have increased tenfold. Oh! could you have seen and heard the constant outpouring of gratitude of the poor fellows; their eager watchings of the agents of the Commission, as they moved among them in the discharge of their duties, you would have felt more than repaid a thousand times for every exertion made for them. "God bless the Sanitary Commission" was the constant

cry from the poor fellows, as one after another their wounds were dressed and their wants supplied. "If it were not for them we would die!" This is not intended to cast any slur on the Government officials—they were overworked, and in the pressing calls made by the sudden arrival of a large number of wounded from the battle-field, could not, in the nature of things, be otherwise, and it is in emergencies of this kind that the true value of the Commission is shown. With their large and well organized band of assistants, they step in and fill the gaps, which the best efforts of the Government must ever leave unfilled, and I do not think their efficacy was ever more displayed than on the above occasion.

On the 22d I first noticed the appearance of that dreaded disease, hospital gangrene. It spread rapidly, and on the 24th, it was deemed necessary to clear her of all the patients, and haul her out into the middle of the stream. The odor of the disease affected every part of the boat, and made some of the attendants sick; but in despite of the dangers to which they were exposed from infection, not one of the agents in the Commission faltered in his duties. They bravely stood up to their posts, and some of them staid by the boat until she was nearly cleared of the patients and anchored in the stream.

My experience has been short, but I saw enough to cause me heartily to join in the prayer of the poor soldiers, "God bless the Sanitary Commission."

—
MR. S. T. KEES.

THE GENERAL FEEDING STATION.

I reported to you soon after our arrival at White House, and the day was assigned to the command of a squad of eight persons. We reported immediately to Feeding Station, No. 1, near the railroad bridge, and were engaged till late in the evening assisting in the care of a large number of wounded men lying in wagons on the north side of the river. The next day, June 3d, we were ordered to report to Capt. Evans, at Feeding Station, No. 2, situated about 300 yards above the landing place of the Sanitary boats, and in a central location. The labor of feeding and caring for the wounded men at that time arriving, so far as the Commission undertook to act, devolved chiefly upon this feeding station, and the consequent labor was very great. Capt. Evans was soon worn out by the worry and responsibility incident to such a place, and was compelled to resign his charge, to which I succeeded. I wish to say of Capt. Evans, that I have seen no man whose heart was more fully in the work, or any one who has exhibited so great tenacity and

industry. In this opinion, all my men agree heartily with me. For some time after I had assumed charge of the post, the labor continued to be severe and without intermission. We supplied the wounded men with soft crackers, coffee, soup, lemons, and various relishes. We fed many well men from the front, going or returning; we dealt out shirts, drawers, stockings, handkerchiefs, shoes; we kept a post office; we dressed wounds; we dispensed simple medicines; we answered innumerable questions. * * *

MR. JOHN STILES.

THE "WATER BARK" FEEDING STATION.

On the 29th of June, in compliance with instructions from you, a feeding station was opened here, to furnish meals to *hungry* soldiers not otherwise provided for. Three days' experience gives the following result:

No. fed 1st day, 307.	2d day, 268.
1 bbl. crackers.	1 bbl. crackers.
1 box "hardtack."	1 box "hardtack."
9 lbs. ground coffee.	6 lbs. ground coffee.
8 cans condensed milk.	6 cans milk.
11 lbs. sugar.	2 bbls. saur kraut.
	10 lbs. ice.
3d day, 319.	
1 bbl. crackers.	
1 box "hardtack."	
10 cans milk.	
15 lbs. brown sugar.	
10 lbs. ground coffee.	
Total, 884 men.	

Of the above goods, there is on hand— $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. saur kraut, 1 box hardtack, 1 bbl. crackers, 4 cans milk, 3 lbs. coffee, 5 lbs. sugar.

Tent and Utensils.

Tent 16 by 16, under which is a table and benches for 12 men.

The coffee boiler is under a small "fly." The only additional articles used are—24 tin cups, 12 spoons, 2 tin pails, 1 wooden bucket, 6 towels, a broom, and an axe—all of which can probably be turned in at the breaking up of the Station.

Two men attend the Station and furnish meals to those *only* who have previously received tickets.

MR. J. F. B. MARSHALL.

AT FREDERICKSBURG.

May 30.

In accordance with your request I submit herewith a brief report of the doings of the 11th Auxiliary Relief Corps, assigned by you to the hospitals on the heights of Fredericksburg, of the second division, 9th Army Corps. This hospital comprised several buildings, the principal of which was the Mansion on St. Mary's Heights, formerly an elegant residence, but now so defaced by shot and shell as to be almost untenable; other houses and cottages comprised within a range of half a mile were filled with wounded. The daily changes of

men rendered it impossible to keep an accurate record.

One train of ambulances left about five hundred men, all of whom were suffering from lack of attention. The average number in the hospital was between five hundred and six hundred. Some four hundred, who were wounded in the attack by Ewell on our wagon train, were left over night in the ambulances in front of our hospitals, and though we were all fatigued by our day's work, we gave the most of the night to these men. The next morning at 6 A.M., the train moved on towards the city, and every man had something in the way of refreshment before he left. We then buried eight poor fellows who had died either on the road or during the night. Rev. Mr. Channing performed a most impressive ceremony.

Their effects were collected and sent to their friends. With all our labors early and late, we could only feel that we had done but a small part of what was needed to be done to make these wounded suffering men comfortable.

The patient, heroic endurance with which they bore their sufferings, and the want of the comforts and almost the necessities of life, was beyond all praise. They fully appreciated all that was done for them, and were overflowing in their expressions of gratitude to the Sanitary Commission and its agents.

We found these poor fellows lying on bare floors mostly without blankets, pillows, mattresses, or even straw. Their clothing fetid with filth and blood, without proper or sufficient food. Although the depot of the Commission had been almost drained of supplies by the great demand from the city hospitals in its immediate vicinity, we succeeded in obtaining some tea, coffee, oatmeal, farina, and sugar, and left at once, and the same evening came that wonderful relief chest, containing a little of almost everything that could be thought of for hospital uses. But for the aid afforded to this hospital by the efforts of the Commission, the sufferings of the inmates must have been very much greater, and I feel confident that many lives were saved by its humane interposition.

The Government supplies were wholly inadequate to the wants of these men even had they been not wounded. Coffee, and occasionally salt pork or salt beef, or fresh beef, which latter was generally served out in a very greasy soup, which seemed to give the men bowel complaints, whenever they partook of it. I was called upon for nothing more eagerly than for medicine to stop the diarrhea, which was a very prevalent complaint.

The medicines found in the relief chest, for this purpose, I used with remarkable success.

The Government had no medical supplies for several days, and my remedies were their sole dependence; and I was told over and over again by the men who insisted upon giving me the title of doctor, that they had never had any medicine that acted so "like a charm" upon them. It would be hardly too much to say that many lives were saved by the instrumentality of the Auxiliary Relief Corps, which has proved its great value most thoroughly and satisfactorily during the fortnight of hospital service at Fredericksburg.

—
MR. J. F. B. MARSHALL.
IN THE FIELD.

June 21.

We left City Point on Thursday, June 16th, at noon, with one four-horse wagon load of sanitary stores. My Corps consisted of eight men, viz.: Messrs. McMurtly, Bates, Eggleston, Francis, King, Sutherland, Hammer and myself. Mrs. Barlow and Miss Gilson also accompanied the expedition. Col. Rand, of the 4th Mass. Cavalry, who was in command of the post, and for whose ready courtesies we were much indebted, furnished the wagon for the stores, a horse and vehicle for the ladies, and an escort of cavalry for our protection. The gentlemen were on foot, and the march of seven or eight miles over a very dusty road and under a hot sun, was a slow and fatiguing one. We were also delayed by falling in with the 9th Army Corps on the march.

Reached the Hospital of the 18th Army Corps about 4 o'clock, where we learned that a general engagement was expected to commence about 5 P. M. I found at this Hospital two wagons of the Christian Commission. The Hospital was not established until after we had arrived. I sent round to find the different hospitals, and which was in most need, and was indebted to the Christian Commission for finding a messenger acquainted with their location. As my Corps were very much fatigued with the march, we went to a house near by, and prepared to pass the night. About 9 o'clock, however, the messenger returned and reported that the Hospital of the 2d Division, 2d Army Corps was very much in want of hospital supplies, none of the wagons having arrived, and the wounded being brought in in great numbers. The Hospital of the 18th Corps, where we first stopped, was also in urgent need of some articles. I started at once with the wagon and three men, leaving four to sleep off their fatigues so as to be able to relieve us in the morning. Left at the 18th A. C. Hospital a part of our supplies, as per annexed list, and started with a guide for the 2d Division, 2d Corps. After losing our way in the woods, we reached the hospital about midnight,

and never were sanitary supplies more needed than at this place. None of the wagons had come up; the hospital was filled with the wounded, who were constantly being brought in, and the Surgeons in need of stimulants for the operating table, clothing for the men, many of whom were shivering in the dews, without coat or blanket. We were busy for several hours, issuing supplies and caring for the wounded, till about 3 A. M., when we were compelled from exhaustion to turn in. The next morning the Sanitary Commission wagon of the Field Corps arrived, with but few supplies. The ladies visited the hospitals of the 1st and 3d Divisions, of this Corps, and reporting that the 1st Division was in great need, I sent over an ambulance load of supplies to that hospital, which took nearly all I had. Mr. Eggleston having over-taxed his strength in working all night among the wounded, I sent him in with the wagon to City Point. Our supplies being nearly exhausted and the wagon not having arrived, which we learned had been sent, I concluded that not being able to find us, its contents had been distributed at some other hospital, which proved to be the case. I concluded we had better return to City Point, and we were to start on Saturday morning, June 18th. Before we got off, however, Mr. Vassan arrived with a two-horse wagon, partly loaded, and the information that a four-horse wagon load was on its way. I concluded to go with these supplies to the 1st Division Hospital. Just as I was starting, I met Dr. Steiner, who reported that he had abundant supplies in his wagons of the regular Field Corps, but that they had been detained in the rear, as the roads were blocked up by troops and ammunition trains. We were most heartily welcomed at the 1st Division Hospital by Dr. Potter, Surgeon-in-charge, who furnished a store-room and guard, a tent for the ladies, and one for the gentlemen, and offered us every facility we could desire. Here we found 1,000 wounded and sick, and more coming in hourly. The Hospital was the best ordered and most perfect in its system of any one I have seen, and the corps of surgeons humane, gentlemanly, and efficient. Our supplies were in great demand, and our efforts most readily received and seconded by the officers in charge. We found enough here to do to keep us all busy.

The next day, Sunday, June 19th, we were early at work, as a train of ambulances and wagons were being loaded for City Point. All day we were busy preparing and distributing milk punch, farina, lemonade, crackers, &c., &c. About 1,000 wounded were sent in, leaving but a few serious cases, and the sick. Fresh arrivals from the field were taking place hourly, and they had to be cared for.

REV. J. A. STONE.

THE BURIAL OF SOLDIERS AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Agreeably to your request I make the following report in reference to the burial of the soldiers here. Having been accustomed to witness the celebration of Christian rites at the burial of the dead, and being sent here by those who were likewise accustomed to see them, I could not bear to see brave men placed in their graves like animals, without any religious service whatever. I therefore made application to the Provost Marshal for authority to officiate at the burial of those soldiers who were to be buried within the military limits of the city. This authority was not only readily but thankfully granted, as I had been the first and only person who had made such an application. The Military Governor, Col. Shriver, also most cheerfully approved and signed this authority.

I have officiated up to the present time at the burial of one hundred and thirty-three officers and privates. The whole number buried at the General Burial Ground is two hundred and two. The soldiers are buried in their clothing and blankets, just as they are brought from the hospitals. No proper headboards or coffins are provided, but we use shingles, with the names written thereon, and placed at the heads of the dead as carefully as possible, so that friends can readily find the bodies of those they seek.

MR. W. AIKMAN.

AT BELLE PLAIN.

We went out on a delegation from the "Delaware Soldiers' Aid Society," and for the purpose of primarily caring for the wounded of Delaware, but also for any service and for any of our suffering men.

On our arrival in Washington, we were satisfied that we could accomplish the object of our mission far better by putting ourselves in connection with the Sanitary Commission than in any other way.

At Belle Plain we put ourselves under the direction of Dr. Steiner, who requested us to relieve a party of overworked young men, who, at the tent and on the hill, were endeavoring to supply the wants of the ten thousand sufferers who were passing in one continuous stream. We took charge of this work, and began to see the beneficent work of the Sanitary Commission.

It were a piteous tale to speak of the seemingly interminable mass of human suffering which we witnessed there—the road for miles crowded with ambulances and wagons, filled with wounded and dying men, and almost every yard of roadside lined with pale and wearied men, leaning on sticks, or on the shoulders of companions less severely wounded; all making their

way painfully to the boat. For the relief of these men, as far as I could see, the only provision was that which the Sanitary Commission had made. How often I blessed it, as the abundant stores enabled us to feed and refresh, and cheer our noble fellows, and made it possible to dress wounds, festered, and some of them undressed for nearly a week. The amount of suffering assuaged then and there gave me new ideas of the work.

The next day we passed on to Fredericksburg. We know in what an inexpressibly dreadful condition our wounded men were, in the crowded churches and houses of that town, and for the first few days the only means of relief for the sufferers was obtained through you; the bandages and lint, and the stimulants, and the disinfectants, as well as the soft crackers, and the farina and milk.

Every blanket and shirt, and every pair of drawers or socks, we were able to get, came from you long before the Government stores had arrived. Here again, and again, while we saw some poor fellows make a little comfortable, or heard his warm thanks, we blessed the work of the Sanitary Commission.

My sympathies were stronger elsewhere, but I have seen so much of the work of the Sanitary Commission, that I cannot but feel the deepest interest in and admiration for it, and am exceedingly glad that it was my privilege to spend a couple of weeks in connection with it. I shall esteem it a privilege to labor with you again, and hope to be called upon by you in time of need.

MR. J. O. DENNISTON.

We disembarked at midnight, pitched our tent and fed with bread and coffee the wounded men who came straggling in. The operations of the Corps until the following Friday, consisted almost entirely of feeding the wounded and hungry soldiers who came along. On Wednesday morning, May 12th, our labors properly began, for then the Corps was specially assigned for duty at this station. At half past four in the morning, camp kettles were procured, and the work of feeding began. Wounded men and soldiers not wounded came pouring in by the thousands, all hungry and in need of food. Bread and coffee were served out to them all as fast as the coffee could be made. The number of those fed it is impossible to determine. All were fed who could be served with the force in hand. The best estimate which can be made, places the number of those fed from Wednesday morning until Friday night at five thousand daily. These men were mostly wounded men, who came by foot, wagons, and ambulances, from the front, but very many were unhurt, but came as guards,

and were in need of food. We labored under great inconvenience from the rain and the mud; our tent was pitched in a location which was very accessible, but very muddy in wet weather. It is believed, however, that no inconvenience resulted to any wounded men from this cause. The members of the Corps were ever found ready to go through the deepest mud when necessary to the relief of those in need. It is thought that since Friday morning last, May 13th, no wounded men went on to the boats without being fed, the exceptions were of those who were slightly wounded, and who of their own choice passed by the feeding stations in order to quietly reach the boats. Previous to Friday it was absolutely impossible to feed all. It would be very unjust to claim all this for the Sanitary Commission. The Christian Commission and Dr. McKay's and Father Gilroy's stations, each did their full share of the work. We have freely furnished delicacies, such as milk punch, oranges, farina. The milk punch has been specially acceptable to all wearied by their long journey from the front. During the present week every man unable from mouth wounds to eat solid food has been supplied with farina. A large number of shirts, drawers, and stockings, have been supplied to those in need. Many bushels of letters have been received at our tent for the mail. We have also fed a large number of delegates and of officers who were hungry.

The work of burying the dead has been attended to by Mr. Thompson, in connection with the Christian Commission; the graves have been marked and a record kept. The Corps has also aided in giving breakfast to the wounded who have remained over night in the hospitals. This work has been very well supervised by Mr. Stanley. It is impossible to give a very explicit report of our whole work, because of the indefinite nature and magnitude of it. We have been treated in the kindest manner by the Government officers; especially are we indebted to the Quartermaster Company and to Dr. Cuyler. We have obtained from them many thousand rations of bread, coffee and sugar, for distribution. We have also been aided greatly by the common soldiers, who have always been ready to do the heavy work of carrying and lifting stores, &c. During the present week a wooden shanty has been erected at our station, which has added to our comfort. The tents have also been floored. The gratitude of the wounded men to us all for our aid has been very demonstrative. The Commission has achieved for itself at Belle Plain the good will of all. The Corps has been at a disadvantage from lack of experience; during the last few days we have been able to do more with less fatigue, by better system, and by securing

the aid of others. I cannot too highly express my conviction of the usefulness of the Sanitary Commission. The Christian Commission and the Government agency have worked very harmoniously with us.

—
MR. GEO. FERGUSON.

AT FREDERICKSBURG.

After leaving Washington, on the 10th inst., the first work in which I was engaged, was in feeding several hundred wounded men at Belle Plain landing, many of whom had had no food for two, three, and even four days.

On the next day we arrived in Fredericksburg, when I was assigned to duty in the 2d Corps, 2d Division Hospital, where I still work. We have always been gladly received by those in authority. The Surgeons have continually worked with us, looking to us for many things that the Government did not provide, or were behind hand in providing, and always got what they looked for.

The room that we took possession of and fitted up for sanitary stores, has become the constant resort for all the Surgeons in the hospital, nurses, Christian Commission men, and all and every little thing they want, they have learned can be had there. It would be impossible for me to attempt to make a statement of the articles that have been distributed from this place.

Among the men, the blessings that are given to the Sanitary Commission are not a few. Many say that they would have starved had it not been for the Sanitary Commission. In the eight days that I have been working here, I have written 33 letters to soldiers' friends, have had three men baptized by the Rev. Mr. Stone, two of whom have died, and the third, who was baptized to-day, is now dying.

The condition of the men generally, has been much improved. At first, the men were sadly in want of under-clothing, but now there are hardly any calls for this; and though beds are still much needed, the men are as comfortable as in their wounded condition they can be. It is not until all these greater wants are supplied that men think of calling for pipes and tobacco. These are constantly in demand now, and as I go among them with tobacco and matches, having previously distributed pipes, I find many takers. The comfort derived from this source is great, and the gratitude of the men for all these things, though quiet, is heartfelt. Another source of pleasure to the soldier has been singing. A small company of us, myself their leader, have gone from one hospital to another in the evenings, and sang to the men, which they have always been much pleased with, begging us to come again.

REV. J. O. MEANS.

I received a telegram from you on Sunday afternoon as I was entering my pulpit at Roxbury, asking me to come to Washington that night. Missing the evening train, I started the next morning, and reached Washington in season to come here in company with the first who came to the relief of our wounded.

After spending Wednesday forenoon in feeding the poor men who had come to Belle Plain, and assisting the severely wounded out of the army wagons and ambulances, I started with my co-laborers and walked to this city in the afternoon, and began systematic work the next morning. I have been particularly impressed by four things in my experience:

1st. The *admirable system* by which the efforts of the Sanitary Commission have been made most practically useful.

2d. The absolute necessity of this auxiliary labor for the lives and welfare of the wounded.

3d. The heartiness with which the medical officers of the army have received and welcomed us, and allowed us to co-operate with them. And

4th. The opportunity of relieving the spiritual as well as the physical necessities of the sufferers.

First. There was a systematic distribution of our company of fifty on board the steamboat on the way from Washington. Six gentlemen were placed in charge of a chief, made in a measure responsible to him, to labor under his general supervision, to receive directions from him; thus on arriving at Belle Plain, each corps was at once able to go to work with least loss of time, or waste of strength or confusion. On reaching Fredericksburg, each corps took its hospital or district of labor, and became responsible for it. This, I think, has secured to an unusual degree economy, efficiency, ease and rapidity in relieving the great disabilities we found existing.

Second. As to the absolute necessity of this auxiliary labor, I am sure I should have had no conception of it, if I had not been engaged here for those first most pressing days which immediately succeeded the great battle. As I write this, matters wear so different an aspect in this city, that we can hardly believe what the condition was ten days since. Our corps was assigned to the Female Orphan Asylum Hospital.

No surgeon had yet been ordered to the hospital, though Dr. Terhune, Surgeon of the Third New York Volunteers, was temporarily looking after matters. Some seventy-five men, among them ten or twelve cases of amputation of legs above the knee, or arms at the shoulder, several with severe wounds in the head, groin and body, and others of

great severity in other places, were in pressing need of attention. The wounds, when we came to dress them, we found had not been attended to for four, seven, and in some cases even nine days. Nothing had been done to organize the hospital. The floors of the building were covered with filth to an indescribable degree, exuvia of rebel troops, who had littered in them for previous months. Dr. Terhune had no assistants, and desired us to undertake the whole work. We began to feed the men, and place them in as comfortable a position as possible. With no details of soldiers, for the pressure was so great in every direction that none could be furnished, we took hold with our own hands and performed the most disagreeable scavenger work, and cleaned the rooms. The Surgeon started us with such instructions as seeing and assisting him in half a dozen cases could give; and then we continued and went through dressing the wounds of the poor sufferers. Our chief of corps was made steward of the hospital to procure supplies. The Sanitary Commission was drawn upon for the first essentials, and for the largest part of our necessities. No lint, bandages, plaster, blankets, or stimulants could be procured from the army stores for many days. Without what the Sanitary Commission furnished, I do not see how anything could have been done. When Dr. Terhune left for the front, he said in my hearing, to Dr. Startevant, who relieved him, four-fifths of all that had been done here, has been by the Sanitary Commission, and four-fifths of our supplies came through them. Gentlemen, I do not repeat this out of compliment to us, but it seems right that the Commission should have, if it needed, the advantage of such explicit indorsement. For the first four days and nights our labor was well nigh prostrating. Since then assistance has come, in admirable volunteer surgeons and assistants, gentlemen from the Auxiliary Commission and other bodies, and nurses have been detailed by the Medical Director, so that our work is less arduous in certain forms.

Third. We have had, as has been already intimated, the fullest and most hearty welcome from the medical and other officers of the army. They have even devolved upon us duties and responsibilities from which we should have been glad to have been relieved, and the constant consultation as to what should be done and how, and their ready compliance with our suggestions and deference to our judgment, would have flattered us if there had been room left in such work for any personal feeling. I think it very remarkable that not any sign of friction in any direction has appeared for one moment; but we, in our humble measure, have been recognized to such an extent as ought to satisfy any reasonable man.

Fourth. I had not anticipated so large an opportunity of promoting the spiritual welfare of the sufferers. While it was indispensable first to make them in some measure comfortable in body, (and every effort must take that direction,) by words of cheer, and by suggestions in various ways while about our work, it seemed as though many a poor sufferer was receiving spiritual strength and consolation.

Our interviews with the men, as they saw and felt us seeking their good, so opened their hearts that they received gladly all we had to say to them. In writing letters to friends at home, speaking of the gospel salvation to the dying, and praying with them, helping their thoughts upward, there has been a most delightful and blessed opportunity of doing in some small measure what our Lord and Master did. With daily prayers in each ward, and special Sabbath services, most kindly, joyfully and thankfully received by the men, it may be hoped that it will be found at last that something has been done for the highest and best interests of our noble, patient, and uncomplaining men.

No pressure of other cases has prevented us from performing decently the last rites over the dead, taking care of the precious momentoes which the soldiers have left for transmission to their homes, and writing letters, in all cases communicating such particulars as we could give them, and speaking such words of comfort as might be possible.

If it were not absolutely imperative that I should return, I should count it special felicity if I might spend some of the coming months in this new philanthropy.

—
MR. A. M. SPERRY.

FREDERICKSBURG, May 18, 1864.

On the morning of the 12th, the 3rd Division of the Relief Corps was assigned to duty in the 1st Division of the 6th Army Corps. We found in the hospital not less than seven hundred men, and the number soon rose to eight hundred, while the constant arrivals and departures made the grand total of wounded men very much larger.

The first few days were so occupied in efforts to feed the hungry, and to dress wounds untouched for days, that any attempt at statistics would have been a wicked waste of time, nor am I aware that the Surgeon in charge attempted anything of the kind.

We have now in nearly every ward a regular system of morning reports, and all the main features of an organized hospital. In this work of organizing, it will be seen that the Relief Corps has been of much assistance.

Even now, in one instance at least, a

member of this Corps makes out the morning report of his ward. But it was "when there were none to help," when all but God had apparently deserted these men, that our work was most valuable. Brought in and laid upon the floor of damp unwholesome stores, or small dark rooms in the poor dwelling-houses on Caroline Street, they lay for days with only a blanket under them, often covered with blood and filth from their wounds, or saturated with water and often with urine.

For the first ten days the work was to cover the naked, only those absolutely destitute or worse than destitute, being supplied. Slowly and surely their condition was improved; as soon as possible noble-hearted volunteer Surgeons dressed their wounds, soldiers were found for nurses, blankets at first from the Commission, afterward from the Medical Purveyor, took the place of those covered with filth and vermin, and shirts and drawers in limited quantities were supplied. The number at present remaining in the hospital is perhaps five hundred. These are in many different buildings, and probably forty rooms. Hardly one of these is fit for a hospital ward. Insufficient light; damp and decaying floors; lack of proper drainage and sinks for the use of the men; little or no ventilation, all contribute to the general unhealthfulness of their condition. It seems impossible that erysipelas and gangrene can long be kept away; even now cases are coming to notice.

The system under which we have worked has in the main proved successful. If it be the theory that we are to look to the wants of the men not supplied through the regular channels, then it seems the best way to do by assigning men to different wards, where by long acquaintance they may be able to judge of each man's condition and wants correctly. Where also, by his personal presence, he may keep a constant restraint upon those inclined to be unfaithful in duty, or in the use of stores. So far as practicable, all stores taken in hand by our men, have been followed directly to the soldiers for whom they were intended.

Hundreds of men in this city to-day owe their lives to the stores furnished, and the work done by the Auxiliary Relief Corps of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

—
MR. W. DANA.

When I entered the service of the Sanitary Commission, I came with a prejudice against this organization—a prejudice held in common with many others who have thought that a large portion of the comforts and money given so freely by the people never reached the soldier. I, there-

fore, watched those at the head of the Sanitary Commission with a jealous eye, as well as those who were at the heads of the different departments, and I must say I am greatly disappointed. I have yet to meet one who is not a gentleman, who to all appearance is not an honorable man, and who has not the true interests of the soldier at heart. I say this freely, as I think I may have done the Sanitary Commission an injustice through ignorance heretofore.

My experience in working for the Sanitary Commission thus far is very brief, one night at Belle Plain, and six days in the hospital at Fredericksburg. Yet, even this has been sufficient to convince me that the Sanitary Commission is filling a gap, and meeting a great want which it is impossible for the Government to do.

For my part I do not see what the soldiers could have done in these hospitals without its aid. While the Government was using all transportation for the supplies of the army at the front, the Sanitary Commission was relieving, by their stores and agents, the sufferings of the wounded and dying.

I have had connection with but one hospital—that of the Second Division, Second Corps, and here, though the Surgeon in charge has been doing all he can for the comfort of those under him, yet to the Sanitary Commission he looked for a large share of the stimulants, clothing, etc., even now, though the Government is furnishing a large quantity of necessary and substantial articles, yet it is from the Sanitary Commission that they draw those articles of delicate food which are so much relished by a sick man.

As for the work, I for one, have enjoyed it exceedingly. I have always found the soldiers glad to see me, and they have been exceedingly grateful for anything I could do for them.

The medical attendants have met me kindly, and are apparently glad of reliable assistance. In fact, I am now convinced, the longer I work here, that the Sanitary Commission is one of the noblest charities of our land, and that it opens a broad field for humane and Christian efforts.

—
MR. J. P. MARSHALL.

To cheer the loneliness of the invalid soldier; to make him feel that he is still an object of tender solicitude—to nourish, sustain and encourage, the Sanitary Commission comes like an angel of mercy. The eye of the sufferer lights up with sudden joy, at the first appearance of the long-hoped for aid, and from his lips come such expressions as these: "God bless the Sanitary Commission;" "The wounded would fare hard if it were not for the Sanitary

Commission;" "Government does all it can, but it is good to see somebody from home;" "What should we do without the Sanitary Commission." Every one who has spent a few hours even in the hospitals has heard many such testimonials of grateful feeling from the sick and wounded.

Such were the glad expressions that saluted our first advent into the hospitals of Fredericksburg, after a tiresome walk from Belle Plain, on the afternoon of May 11th, 1864. The smiles that greeted us from long rows of sunburnt men, stretched upon floors of the stores, with nothing but a bloody blanket beneath them, was ample compensation for the fatigue of our journey.

The 4th Corps of Relief Agents, was assigned to the Fourth Division Second Corps Hospital, located principally on Caroline Street. The hospital was already well organized and divided into twelve wards. Dr. Ewing, the Surgeon in charge, received us kindly, and assigned us a room in the second story of the building at the corner of George and Caroline Streets, over ward four of our hospital. We remained there until the effluvia from the ward below, and from another which had been established in the rooms in the rear, on the same floor, compelled us to evacuate the premises.

Our corps originally consisted of John P. Marshall, of College Hill, Massachusetts; Dr. Daniel A. Johnson, Rev. Dr. Stockbridge, Capt. John C. Hubbard, and John S. Bent, all of Chelsea, Massachusetts, and Mr. Noble, Jr., of New York City. Miss Helen L. Gilson, was also assigned to our hospital. Dr. Johnson and Mr. Noble were removed from our corps for special service elsewhere. The remaining members were organized into a working party, as follows:

John P. Marshall had supervision of corps and charge of arrival diet; Captain Hubbard had charge of vegetable diet; Rev. Dr. Stockbridge had charge of soldiers' correspondence; Mr. Bent had charge of stimulants; Miss Gilson had supervision of the cooking department, and distribution of clothing, etc. Captain Hubbard was healthy, faithful and active. Mr. Bent, though not well, much of the time, bore up manfully, and by his devotedness, won the affectionate regard of all connected with the hospital.

Dr. Stockbridge conducted the correspondence with fidelity, writing some days as many as thirty letters.

Upon Miss Gilson's services, we scarcely dare trust ourselves to comment. Upon her experience we relied for counsel, and it was chiefly due to her advice and efforts, that the work in our hospital went on so successfully. Always quite self-possessed and prompt in the discharge of duty, she accomplished more than any one could for

the relief of the wounded, besides being a constant example and embodiment of earnestness for all. Her ministrations were always grateful to the wounded men, who devotedly loved her for her self-sacrificing spirit. Said one of the 5th New Jersey in our hearing, "There isn't a man in our regiment who wouldn't lay down his life for Miss Gilson."

We have seen the dying man lean his head upon her shoulder, while she breathed into his ear the soothing prayer that calmed, soothed and prepared him for his journey through the dark valley.

The Surgeons of our hospital were kind-hearted, active young men. The wounded and sick were taken just as good care of, by them and their assistants, as the state of the supplies would permit. The nurses were generally attentive and careful. When one neglected his duty, he was at once discharged. The ward-masters of ward 1 and 2 were men whom we shall always remember with gratitude, for their unwearied labors in behalf of the badly wounded men under their charge.

We were not required to dress a single wound, while connected with the hospital. In answer to an inquiry, if it was expected of us, the Surgeon assured us it was not, but if we desired some experience, we were at liberty to dress some simple wounds under the direction of his assistants. The wounds were dressed regularly once a day in the forenoon, except one or two days, when no supplies of lint and bandage could be procured. As a proof of the superior care taken of the wounded men in our hospital, we do not remember a single case in which the wounds became infested with maggots. Out of eleven hundred men who were temporary inmates in the hospital, only fourteen died.

Under the direction of Miss Gilson, the special diet was prepared, and we cannot strongly enough express our sense of the invaluable service she rendered in this department. The food was always eagerly expected and relished by the men, with many expressions of praise. Dr. Ewing prescribed the diet, and the hours of serving it, which were very faithfully observed by the agents.

After Dr. Ewing was summoned to the front, Dr. Ribble took charge, maintaining the same excellent supervision that characterized his predecessor.

These medical men were glad to avail themselves of our services, and from the first treated us with marked respect and kindness—a proof that they recognized the utility of the work the Sanitary Commission was created to do.

We can but feel that the presence of judicious and cultivated agents of the Sanitary Commission will do much to impress more fully upon the Surgeons and nurses

the sacred obligation they are under, to treat with the utmost tenderness the commonest soldier, who falls in the service of our common country.

At the same time too much care cannot be exercised by the agents, not to interfere with the Surgeon's appropriate duties. By showing a disposition to help without interfering, by doing much and talking little, the agents can soon inspire confidence, and gain the hearty co-operation of the medical authorities, in any wise measure for the relief of the suffering.

The wounded men need more nourishing, or at least a more palatable diet, than is provided by the Government authorities. We often found men in a weak and feverish state, with their beef soup and hard tack untasted near them, but glad to get a dish of farina or some little article of diet prepared by Miss Gilson. The lives of men, under such circumstances, are often saved by some simple kind of food, which the hospital stores do not furnish, or the cooks do not know how to prepare.

If all the hospital nurses were honest, they might be intrusted with the distribution of the special diet. But without any intention of reflecting very severely upon the general character of the men employed by Government, we do know from personal observation that all cannot be trusted with the delicacies intended for the wounded. It becomes necessary that responsible men should have charge of the extra diet, and see faithfully that each wounded or sick man has his share of the nutriment, upon the proper and regular supply of which his life depends.

Nor is it strange that some soldiers, who act as nurses, long deprived of luxuries, should be unable to resist temptation, and sometimes appropriate to their own use the delicacies intended for the wounded.

The Agents of the Commission, by the faithful discharge of their duties, can prevent all such abuse of trust, and guard the interests of the invalid soldier.

(Remainder in our next number.)

HOW WE LIVED.

LETTER FROM REV. MR. POTTER.

WHITE HOUSE, VA., June, 1864.

I hardly know whether to laugh or to feel indignant at the reports I hear concerning the luxurious habits of living, in which the Sanitary Agents indulge. I did laugh at first, for the thought of luxury was so incongruous with all my surroundings at the moment, and so far from any thing in my experience of the Sanitary Commission, that I could hardly believe the charge of luxurious living was made seriously. But when I saw that it was, I was inclined to wax indignant, and to wish that the people who circulate and believe such charges, would come out her

to see and try this luxurious service themselves. When I read the letter, we had just dined, sitting on boxes, off a table constructed of rough boards laid on barrels. Our table furnishings are all tin—just such as the soldiers have. Our food is very often served in wash-basins—precisely such as we may have used half an hour before in dressing wounds—and very suggestive also of the morning toilet. The dinner, to-day, was the best I have seen since leaving Washington. It consisted of canned chicken, potatoes, apple-sauce, pickles, bread and butter, and coffee, served in a good deal of confusion, and with no very special regard to neatness. Nothing but the good appetites that most of us possess, could possibly overcome the obstacles of such a dining table.

I suppose some would say that canned chicken was a luxury, and that we are eating up the stores sent for the wounded and sick soldiers. But the canned chicken, tell the carpenter, was a rarity. I have never seen it on the table but once before. Our usual meat is salt ham. We do not complain, though we do not always relish our meats; we expected such discomforts. Here, we have been provided for rather better than at Fredericksburg or Fort Royal. It is necessary for the health of the agents. They cannot long work, without good and sufficient food, and here some things which would not be provided for them elsewhere are put upon the table, because of the natural unhealthiness of the location. It is a malarious district, and it is not well to drink much of the water. We sometime have ale. Whatever we have, of course comes out of the sanitary stores; and this, of course, the public must know, when they contribute the funds. The agents can live in no other way, and the funds cannot be used without the agents. And whoever could see how these men work here—working many of them night and day, and sleeping only when and where they can—could never begrudge them their roughly served and often neglected meals. And as for luxury in any other shape, the term is still more ridiculous, at least as far as the agents who follow the army are concerned. Even I, who expected hardship, am surprised to find how little provision is made for their comfort. The barges and steamboats are filled everywhere with stores, and passengers must get along as they can. We sleep, a hundred or more of us, counting all hands, wherever we can crowd a straw mattress down, on the floor, or on boxes of goods. The mattresses and choice places, (if any there be,) are free to those who can first get them—the agents, boatmen, or contraband cooks. One night, com-

ing on board rather late, I was so unfortunate as to get only the edge of a bale, where I was conscious all night of an effort to hold on, lest I should slip over the railing of the deck. It may have been an attitude of luxury, but it did not strike me so at the time? And whatever the attitude may be at night, comfortable or uncomfortable, and however well disposed one may be to sleep, there is always the possibility, very frequently made actual, of being pulled up at any hour, to go, it may be a mile or more, through rain and dark and mud, to feed a train of wounded and suffering men. This is a part of the work we came to do, and we do it uncomplainingly, but we do not call it a luxurious mode of life.

Nor did those of our number who were detailed the other day to go up to Washington as nurses on a boat, where there were only three surgeons with four hundred wounded men, and who were almost the only nurses on board, and who had to do every kind of service for thirty-six hours for these men, dressing their wounds, cooking for them, as well as for themselves, and serving them, not only as care-takers but in the most menial ways, consider their service as a mode of luxury. They were glad, and felt honored, to perform it, there being no one else to do it. But I did not intend to go into this long story. It will serve, however, to show you something of our style of living, which was what you wished to know. I felt moved, too, to defend these Sanitary Agents whom I know about, against so false a charge, not on my own account, for I am but a temporary volunteer among them, but because of their own long and faithful service.

HOSPITAL NOTES FOR FRIENDS AT HOME.

RAFFAHANNOCK RIVER, STRAMER KENT,
SUNDAY P. M., May 25, 1864.

After my experience here with the Sanitary Commission, I only wish I had the "gift of tongues," that I might place a fair record on paper of its operations, and give some hints by which you at home could realize the work it is doing for the nation, for the army, for the hospitals and for the wounded. But even now, with all my intimate connection with these active operations in this gigantic campaign, I declare to you that I do not know where to begin in my eulogy, for I do not yet begin to realize myself one half of its beneficent work. In the first place it is always ahead in every thing. It reaches a new base as soon as there are soldiers to protect it; it is at work establishing hospitals and providing necessary stores long before the government machinery begins to move; and

its red flags are seen every where with the stars and stripes, establishing its feeding stations, and its depots of supplies.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE MONEY?

People ask at home, and it is a natural question, for they can form no conception of the vast field it covers in its operations, "what can the Sanitary do with all this money? Their present funds should last them till the war is over." Let them try to realize the wants and necessary comforts to be supplied to a hundred wounded men. The rolls of bandages to cover legs, arms and bodies; the lint, clothing, shirts, drawers, and stockings; the pillows and pads for stumps; the bedticks, slings, and bedpans; the bay for bedding, the tents, blankets and slippers; the oakum for wounds; the crutches, fans and basins; sponges, drinking cups and spoons, each man requiring more or less of each of these and a hundred other things for his outward comfort, for the soothing of shattered limbs or seeling wounds. And then the articles of food, embracing every necessary stimulant, oranges, lemons, soft bread, oat meal for gruel, farina, cordials, canned and dried fruits, vegetables and meats, condensed milk and coffee, sugar and tobacco, eggs and crackers, and a long list besides, and all this not for one man, nor a hundred, nor a thousand, but for tens of thousands in *one department* only of the vast campaign.

It is also to be remembered that in Virginia the work is not simply *with* or in the *midst* of the army, nor alone upon the battle field; it is spread over vast tracts of country through which the army sweeps, where has been left its wounded, in the wilderness or on the plains. Its stations are established not only where it is absolutely *known* they will be needed, but where there may be a possibility of want. All this requires comprehensive forethought, prompt and energetic action, unwearied labor in an infinite detail. Of some articles the requirements are enormous. Condensed milk by the ton. Shirts by the tens of thousands, ice and hay by the cargo, and so on with the long list of supplies. And this material has to be transported by wagon trains from one base to another, forage for horses has to be provided, drivers have to be paid, steamers chartered, and coal consumed; indeed it is a gigantic machinery, and as beneficent in its ministry as it is vast in its proportions. I understand that the cash expenditure for May will be \$250,000, and this does not include the material contributed, nor the supplies sent to its central depots as a gift; and all this is well applied; the percentage of waste is very small; indeed, I have yet to see the first can of

meats or coffee misused, the first bottle of liquors uselessly consumed, or the first article which is placed thus in the hands of its agents sacrificed either by careless or injudicious use.

ITS MANAGEMENT.

If I had the time, I would go into some detail of the hospital management in Fredericksburg, but I can only say that on our arrival there, the military authorities took possession of houses, stores, churches and all public buildings. Each Army Corps had its hospital department, the city being divided in such a manner that each wounded man as he arrived was sent to the street or building which represented the Division of the Corps to which he belonged. These buildings were divided into wards, and corps of nurses were assigned to them and held responsible for their proper management. Our Ninth Corps' Hospitals on the Heights of Fredericksburg were sadly destitute. Our buildings were overcrowded. From mansions of grandest proportions, to leaky sheds and out-houses, crumbling to decay, our wounded men found shelter. But it was little more than shelter. As closely as men could lie side by side, they were packed in upon the hard floors, some without blankets and many without shirts. I cannot tell the story of individual suffering; I cannot tell how we lived and worked through those days and nights, bringing order out of chaos and comparative comfort out of the most fearful suffering. I can only remember scenes and sounds and smells as we sometimes look back upon some long agony. Men feverish and weary, with aching wounds and shattered limbs, so patient, hopeful, resigned and uncomplaining. As the days passed by, each hour brought a more liberal supply of hospital stores, and before the evacuation we had our more immediate wants supplied. The central store of supplies of the Sanitary, occupied the warehouse of the infamous Mayor Slaughter; it was here that the wagon trains were unloaded as they came up from Belle Plain, and from these stores our requisitions were answered for every variety of supplies which our hospitals required.

I have in my book a memorandum of our requisitions for our five or six hundred men, and in looking it over I am amazed to see how large our daily drafts were upon this central store.

HUNDREDS OF LIVES SAVED.

It is an unquestionable fact that the Sanitary Commission has saved in this campaign *hundreds* of lives simply from its food. There would have been deaths without number from actual starvation, if we had not had an abundance of stores upon the spot, for I saw and fed

many who were in the last stages of exhaustion and who must have died if we had not been able to relieve them.

Aside, however, from any personal matters, the Sanitary Commission has done, perhaps, the noblest Christian work of any age. Always fresh with warm and tender sympathies, ever constant with its sweetest ministries, never failing with its living consolations, it comforts sorrowing homes, it whispers to dying hearts, and it bends with an untiring devotion over those who have seemed to be on the verge of the dark valley, but who have come out at last into the bright sunlight again, in God's good Providence and love; and if there is one song on earth which the angels may also chant in heaven, it is, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

R,
Relief Agent.

EXTRACTS FROM OUR JOURNAL.

AT CITY POINT.

Three cars were loaded for Cedar Level to-day, consigned to Mr. Butler, at the Commissary Depot at that place, where we have a Field Depot. They contained:

74 bbls. potatoes.	10 bbls. cranberries.
63 " onions.	53 " pickled cucumbers.
27 " green apples.	27 " pickled tomatoes.
1 " tomatoes in cans.	2 " beets.
Making 257 bbls. in all.	

Dr. Douglas visited the hospitals of the 10th A. C. at Point of Rocks. The arrangements are excellent, and the use of Flies alone for hospital purposes appeared to be most admirable. Inquired of Dr. Potter, Surgeon-in-charge, what views he had as the result of his experience in regard to the use of Flies alone. He highly approved of their use for all cases of sickness or of wounds at this season of the year. Said they furnished during yesterday's rain quite as complete a protection as the tent.

The working organization of the Commission at this point is as follows:

Dr. J. H. Douglas, Associate Secretary in charge.

Dr. Alexander McDonald, Inspector and Executive Officer.

Dr. Wm. F. Swalm, Inspector and Controller of Issues.

Mr. Jno. A. Anderson, Supt. of Transportation and Supplies.

Mr. Chas. S. Clappitt, Chief Storekeeper.

Mr. Jas. J. Brooks, Purveyor.

Mr. J. Warner Johnson, Superintendent Field Relief.

Mr. Frank B. Fay, Superintendent Auxiliary Relief.

The whole force here, including all employed by the Commission, numbers about 220 men.

There were sent to the front via Cedar Level this P. M.:

258 bbls. potatoes.
148 " onions.
46 " beets. Total, 452 bbls.

July 23d, 1864.

Last night about eleven o'clock the report was brought to the office that the Kennedy was filling with water rapidly. All hands were roused, and the cargo which had been transferred from the Liberty and Thomson was rapidly put back upon the Thomson, until the water ceased to gain upon the pumps. It was long after midnight when work ceased. It is gratifying to record that every man worked with a will and an energy which is rarely witnessed, showing a personal interest in the saving of the cargo.

We were requested yesterday by Capt. Pitkin, A. Q. M., to loan one tug, S. E. Brown, to bring up a schooner of supplies for Gen. Grant and Staff. The tug was immediately turned over temporarily to Capt. Pitkin, and received her sailing orders to proceed to the Potomac River, and even to Alexandria, in search of the said schooner.

Sent to Cedar Level to-day:

494 bbls. potatoes.
303 " onions.
142 " beets.
1 bbl. sour kraut.
1 " pickles. Total, 941 bbls.

July 23d, 1864.

Sent by rail to Cedar Level:

45 bbls. tomatoes.
1 bbl. " (large.)
780 boxes " (large.)
2 bbls. potatoes.
5 " onions.
3 " beets.
1 bbl. cranberries.
Total, 837 bbls. and boxes.

Vegetables for want of wharf room are sent to Cedar Level, subject to the order of Mr. Johnson, who goes from Division to Division of the Army, and gives orders upon our Vegetable Depot, as he in his judgment deems best. To-day we have supplied our own Field Stations belonging to the 5th, 9th, and 18th Army Corps, and to the Stations in the Depot Hospital at this point, attached to the 10th, 18th, 2d, 9th, and 5th Army Corps; also to the Post Hospital at Bermuda Hundred, at City Point, and at Wilson's Landing.

Secretary Seward and daughters were here to-day. Left about noon.

Two rebel batteries are planted on the river above Bermuda Hundred and below our fleet. The dispatch boat is fired at every day.

CITY POINT, July 24th, 1864.

Drs. McDonald, Swalm and Douglas went to the front. Visited the Field Stations of the Sanitary Commission of the 5th and

Rent and Taxes	\$247 00
Furnishing and Repairs	200 60
Salaries	718 65
Traveling Expenses	45 00
Advertising	21 00
Stationery and Printing	\$75 47
Postage	22 00
Hospital Stores	105 94
*Superintendent's Expense Account	3,643 81
Miscellaneous	104 40
	\$6,070 23

The average cost per man of the service for the quarter, as shown, is \$1.01 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with \$1.08 for the previous quarter, showing a reduction of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

The average cost per man, of the service for the successive quarters since its inauguration, is as follows:

Quarter ending June 30, 1863	\$2 35
" " Sept. 30, 1863	1 28
" " Dec. 31, 1863	1 15
" " March 31, 1864	1 04
" " June 30, 1864	1 04 $\frac{1}{2}$

The following statement exhibits the result of the Hospital Car Service between New York and Boston for the quarter ending June 30, 1864:

Number of Soldiers transported	2,405
Total cost of the Service	\$373 66

Average cost per man, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, which is a reduction of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ from the previous quarter.

The following supplies have been furnished for use on these cars, viz.: Brandy, whisky and wine, 5 bottles each; 1 bottle cologne, 1 bottle ammonia, 1 roll plaster, 1 bottle pills, 1 bottle cough mixture, 1 dozen cakes soap, 2 gallons oil, 1 dust brush, 1 feather duster, 2 packages lint and bandages.

During the last quarter the Special Relief Service at this point has assumed increased importance. The movement of well soldiers, upon furlough, has almost entirely ceased, and while the number of arrivals continues nearly as great as at any previous time, they are almost exclusively wounded or sick men going to their homes upon short furloughs, to recruit, or in process of transfer from one hospital to another.

The emergencies which the establishment has proved itself able to meet, without disturbing its ordinary routine, has, of late, been strikingly illustrated. Upon one occasion, within a space of an hour and three-quarters, 390 wounded men were received, their wounds dressed, and dinner given them (each man selecting, according to his taste, from a bill of fare.) At the appointed hour every man was comfortably aboard the train provided for their transportation to Augusta, Maine, and the train supplied through our agency with requisite appliances for their comfort. Of this number, 301 required to be brought to our rooms in carriages, and so taken again to their train. The regular

ordinary record was made in the case of every man. His name, regiment, company, name of officer, place of residence, wound and condition, and aid rendered being correctly entered upon the register.

An arrangement has been recently concluded by which we are enabled to draw rations from Government for all furloughed men, whom we furnish with meals. Our communication with the Commissary Department at Washington in relation to this matter, has been of the most satisfactory character, our views having been met in the most cordial and liberal manner. It gives us pleasure, also, to add that our relations with all Government and State officers at this point are altogether satisfactory and agreeable.

I am, my dear sir, with great regard,

Very respectfully yours,

JNO. S. BLATCHFORD,
For Exec. Com. of Boston Associates of
U. S. Sanitary Commission.

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1st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.

2d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.

3d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.

4th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.

* Classification of Superintendent's Expense Account.

Transportation	\$381 00
Traveling Expenses	98 27
Meals	2,109 79
Furniture	8 56
Fuel	55 89
Washing	170 65
Salaries	80 00
Mutiny loaned and given	143 94
Postage	6 45
Sundries	97 09
Undertaker's Services	27 50

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
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F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shima, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
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Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
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J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.
C. J. Stillé, " "
Ezra B. McCagg, Chicago, Ill.

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George T. Strong, Treasurer.
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Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.,
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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if by person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

For Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 15th and 16th Streets, Lodge No. 6, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station, Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
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Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Majors, Sup't.
James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
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Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Joseph Jerome, Sup't and Relief Agent.
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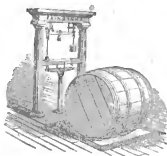
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Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	\$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 1, 1864.

No. 21.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STENO, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

"FEDERAL ATROCITIES."

The London *Times* says that we carry on our war against the Slaveholders' Rebellion "with a cruelty that far surpasses anything that can be laid to the charge of England, though the lapse of eighty years has softened war's manners and has caused humanity to be respected even in the camp." This is the repetition of an old story. For the last three years English peers and statesmen in Parliament and out of it have been making the "unprecedented inhumanity and barbarity" of our soldiers a most telling point in their oratorical apologies for slavery.

All this talk has had some effect in the circle of gentle and kind-hearted women in my little town, who have been busily working for the relief of our army, through the Sanitary Commission, ever since the war began. They look at each other and ask in whispers, are we really working for an army of cut-throats and ruffians, whose brutalities and atrocities exceed even those of the British soldiers, who stormed Badajos and Ciudad Rodrigo? We know war is a cruel business, but are the violence and brutality of our armies really *unprecedented*? If what these disinterested English outsiders say be true, we feel as if we ought to do no more work for men whose atrocities actually exceed the incredible horrors of which we read in history.

This is natural enough. We were all brought up to reverence England, and the grandfather of Mrs. Snipferdgets, President of our Soldiers' Relief Society, is said to have been fourth cousin to the brother-in-law of a gentleman quite nearly related to the British Peerage. She is therefore naturally regarded as an authority as to the

opinions of the aristocracy of Europe, and she assures us that we are regarded in the "highest circles" abroad as conducting this war in a spirit of fiendish atrocity and ferocity, unknown since the days of Louis XIV. and the devastation of the Palatinate, and which British humanity could not endure for a single day.

Now it is quite true that soldiers in active service are sometimes guilty of criminal violence. No doubt there have been such cases among our hundreds of thousands of enlisted men—though the only reason I have for so believing is the appearance of an occasional newspaper paragraph, at long intervals, stating that Private so-and-so was duly hanged day before yesterday for some such offence. But this misfortune occasionally happens to people in civil life.

I wish, however, to show my humane and sensitive friends through the columns of the BULLETIN that whatever "atrocities and barbarities" our soldiers have committed are not in the least degree "unprecedented," and that the worst charges ever brought against them, true or false, fall far short of what a British historian records of British soldiers, in a campaign of which he was an eye witness, and which was conducted not "eighty years ago," but *sic*.

I have before me a copy of "My Diary in India, in the year 1858-9, by William Howard Russell, LL.D., Special Correspondent of 'The Times.' In two volumes. London: Routledge & Co., 1860." Mr. Russell is a cool man of the world, and an experienced observer of campaigns, and this is the last considerable war in which our peace-loving philanthropic British critics have thought it profitable to engage.

Their persecution of the Maoris and their shelling and burning of a Japanese port or two, are more recent to be sure, but these are mere retail transactions, charged to the account of "petty cash," and are not entered in detail in the books of the British Empire. Let us see with what entire freedom from "cruelty" this East Indian campaign against native princes, whose titles date back for centuries, and who had risen against a foreign commercial tyranny, established among them partly by force and partly by fraud, was conducted by the

humane and merciful armies of Great Britain.

On page 222, Vol. I, Mr. Russell tells us that "when Neill marched from Allahabad, his executions were so numerous and indiscriminate, that one of the officers attached to his column had to remonstrate with him, on the ground that if he depopulated the country he could get no supplies for the men."

Just imagine one of Gen. Sherman's staff advising him that if he would persist in exterminating all the people on his line of march through Tennessee and Georgia, he would have difficulty in obtaining subsistence and forage!

At Lucknow, Mr. Russell informs us, (Vol. I, p. 301,) a certain house, occupied by rebels, was desperately defended. It was shattered by artillery at last, and then stormed. "Some of the Sepoys were still alive, and they," we are told, "were mercifully killed. But for some reason or other, which could not be explained, one of the number was dragged out to the sandy plain outside the house, he was pulled by the legs to a convenient place, where he was held down, pricked in the face and body by the bayonets of some of the soldiery, while others collected fuel for a small pyre, and when all was ready, the man was roasted alive. There were Englishmen looking on. More than one officer saw it. No one offered to interfere. The horror of this infernal cruelty was aggravated by an attempt of the miserable wretch to escape when half burned to death. By a sudden effort he leaped away, and with the flesh hanging from his bones ran a few yards ere he was caught, brought back, put on the fire again, and held there by bayonets till his remains were consumed. 'And his cries, and the dreadful scene,' said my friend, 'will haunt me to my dying hour.' 'Why didn't you interfere?' 'I dared not.'" Mr. Russell adds, in a foot note, "I saw the charred bones some days after, on the plain." (P. 302.)

There is no evidence that any officer or soldier of our army, who renounced his allegiance and military fidelity, (like this unlucky Sepoy,) and went over to the rebels, has up to this time been roasted alive by any squad of patriotic and zealous Un-

ionists, belonging to a New York or New England Regiment.

"I must confess," says Mr. Russell, on p. 320 of the same volume, "that I do not altogether approve of anything but the extraordinary courage and self-possession which marked his (*Hodson's*) conduct in shooting down the sons of the King of Delhi, but" &c.

If one of our Colonels should capture a batch of blue-blooded rebel "Congressmen," and finding it doubtful whether he could carry them safely to headquarters, should proceed to blow their brains out, *seriatim*, I think the London *Times* and Lord Brougham would see little to approve in his "courage and self-possession."

It would seem that the armies of England made a most ingenuous use of the religious superstitions of these luckless Orientals, to render their death more bitter. Mr. Russell is unfortunately not very explicit on this subject, but his remarks suggest a great deal. "All these kinds of vindictive, unchristian Indian torture," he says, (vol. 2, p. 43,) "such as sewing Mohammedans in pig-skins, and smearing them with pork-fat before execution, and burning their bodies, and forcing Hindoos to defile themselves, are disgraceful, and ultimately recoil on ourselves. They are spiritual and mental tortures to which we have no right to resort."

So England treats her Oriental rebels. What would she say if we followed her example, (at a remote and humble distance,) and obliged every chivalric South Carolinian prisoner to take a liberated black man for his chum and bed-fellow?

"One of the civilians of the station who visited me," says Mr. Russell, (vol. 2, p. 82,) "boasted that he had hanged fifty-four men in a few hours, for plundering a village." Mr. R. thought the proceeding rather strong, but his friend regarded it with "intense satisfaction, and regretted that he had not more of the same work to do." Suppose General Rosecranz should "hang fifty-four men for plundering a village in Missouri!"

On page 295 of vol. 2 Mr. Russell says: "I heard a man tell a story which astonished me, not the tale so much, for I had heard many of them, as the way he told it

—a very worthy man, no doubt, but what he said was this: On a certain occasion, in a recent celebrated action, a place to which I shall not more particularly allude, [*politic Russell!*] was strongly occupied by the enemy. Our men carried it with great gallantry, and bursting in, proceeded to kill all whom they found inside. The work was nearly completed, when this officer perceived a number of Sepoys crouching upon the flat roof of the enclosure. They had been firing on our men, but seeing the terrible fate of their comrades, they sought to escape notice, and had taken to this place of refuge. They made signs to the officer that they would surrender, and he ordered them to come down the narrow staircase leading from the roof, and as the first Sepoy appeared, he told the man to take off his belt and ponch and to lay it with his musket down upon the ground. The same thing he did with each succeeding Sepoy, till he had got them all, fifty-seven in number, upon which, he said, I fell them in against the wall, and told some Sikhs, who were handy, to *polish them off*. This they did immediately, shooting and bayoneting them, so that altogether they were disposed of in a couple of minutes." This prompt execution of justice was doubtless most creditable to Great Britain. Our national soldiers have never ventured on anything so masculine and vigorous.

At Lucknow, Mr. R. tells us, (vol. 1, p. 348,) "after the Fusiliers had got to the gateway, a Cashmere boy came toward the post, leading a blind and aged man, and throwing himself at the feet of an officer, asked for protection. That officer, as I was informed by his comrades, drew his revolver, and snapped it at the wretched applicant's head. The men cried 'shame on him.' Again he pulled the trigger, again the cap missed—again he pulled, and once more the weapon refused its task. The fourth time—thrice had he time to relent—the gallant officer succeeded, and the boy's life-blood flowed at his feet!"

Whether this ornament to the service was promoted for his "distinguished conduct" in this affair does not appear, but what would we American barbarians have said, if Gen. Butler, for example, walking through the streets of New Orleans the day

after its surrender, had encountered an elderly secessionist with a young son or nephew of 12 or 14 accompanying him, and had thereupon produced his revolver and blown out the child's brains?

I think the humane and patriotic women who work for our soldiers need give themselves no concern about foreign lamentations over their violence and cruelty. No armies have ever shown themselves so forbearing and merciful as ours. Our national soldier is, in the language of the *Morte d'Arthur*, "the kindest man that ever struck with sword." England, at least, has no right to charge us with inhumanity, while Mr. Russell's record of her dealings with a rebellious colony at the antipodes remains uncontradicted.

A "DISILLUSIONATED" ANGLOMANIAC.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

IN THE FIELD.

Dr. A. N. Read, writes from Nashville, on the 3d August, as follows:

According to your instructions I left Nashville the last of April, to give attention to the work of the Commission in the field.

On my arrival at Chattanooga, I consulted with Surgeon G. Perin, U. S. A., and Medical Director, and subsequently with Gen. Thomas, as to the best manner in which the Commission could aid in the care of the sick and wounded.

The great difficulty was to secure transportation, and the question arose as to the practicability of the Commission furnishing their own. It was deemed best not to do this, but to depend upon Government teams. As it was expected that soon after the movement of the army, large supplies of stores would be needed, I sent you on the 27th the following telegram:

"Can you send twelve thousand pounds of milk, eight thousand bottles of spirits, and a general supply of delicacies? How soon?" Dr. Perin, added the following indorsement: "Please forward as soon as possible."

G. PERIN, U. S. A., Medical Director, }
Medical Director's Office, April 27, 1864. }

I then visited a portion of the troops in the field, and at Ottawah a Brigade Hospital in charge of Dr. F. M. Cook, Surgeon 101st Ohio Regiment. It contained only forty-four patients, but they were from different States,

as follows: Ohio, thirteen; Indiana, ten; Illinois, four; Pennsylvania, one; Iowa, five; Michigan, two; Kentucky, nine. I mention this, as the doctor showed me a letter from a friend of State Agencies, asking him to send for stores for Ohio soldiers exclusively, which, as you can see by the inmates of his hospital, he justly declined to do. This hospital had received some, outside of the brigade. The patients all had beds and bed-ticks filled with straw. The bunks were made by the Surgeon and his attendants; every sick man had a pillow; the beds were clean, the food good, with a liberal supply of vegetables, such as potatoes, onions, pickles, etc. They also had milk, and every day each man was served with stewed fruit. The Surgeon remarked that "all these were obtained from the Sanitary Commission, and could be had in no other way."

Soon after this visit, the army advanced, and on May 1st, in company with Dr. Perin and my brother, I visited Ringgold, for the purpose of obtaining a suitable room for medical and sanitary stores. We took an order from Gen. Thomas, that rooms should be furnished us, and secured a suitable one for the Purveyor's stores and our own. This accomplished, we returned, and immediately 175 packages of stores were forwarded.

About this time Dr. Perin, by his own request, was relieved from his duties as Medical Director. We parted from him with sorrow; he had been a faithful and efficient officer, ever ready to aid us in our work, and to give us a reason, if he could not.

As most of the troops had left Knoxville and joined this army, I telegraphed Dr. M. M. Seymour, Sanitary Inspector, in charge of the work in the Department of Ohio, asking him to come and aid us in the anticipated work. He came promptly, and until he was disabled by sickness, gave invaluable assistance. Mr. F. R. Croy also came back with him, and for a time took charge of the storeroom at Ringgold.

Our plan for the campaign was to have an Agent of the Commission with each Army Corps, and, if possible, with each Division, whose business should be to supply them with stores and attend to their

distribution, and, as soon as possible, make lists of casualties; the stores to be obtained from the nearest railroad depot to the army.

During my visits to the regiments I found much complaint, and much cause of complaint, of the fraud practiced by sending inefficient men for the new recruits. Some were sent who had been twice discharged for disability, others were deformed—one was blind in one eye—had double scrotal hernia, and deformed hands. Of one squad of men drilling, none were over fifteen years of age, by their own confession.

On May 6th, our army had passed Ringgold, and a battle was daily expected. For several days there had been skirmishing, and many wounded were brought to Ringgold hospitals. Many Surgeons called and anxiously inquired what we could do for them. We had only enough for present use on hand, and I could only tell them that stores were expected daily in much larger quantity.

About this time I invited Rev. Mr. Smith and Mr. Lawrence, of the Christian Commission, to join us in our work, assuring them that all our stores should be as freely given to their agents as to ours, and upon the same terms. This invitation was accepted, and we worked in harmony.

I cannot better give you a knowledge of our work at this time than by extracts from my journal:

"May 7th, telegraphed to Nashville, for pails, cnsps, brooms, spoons, lanterns, and other hospital stores.

"May 9th, sent back stores to Tunnel Hill—Mr. H. Touse arrives, and goes with the Army of the Tennessee. The same day, 350 wounded men were placed in the hospitals at Tunnel Hill; a storeroom had already been opened there, and milk, beef, ale, crackers, oranges, lemons, clothing, rags and bandages were ready and freely used.

"On the 10th, Mr. Croy brought up all the stores left at Ringgold, and during the day a list of wounded was taken and sent to the Hospital Directory at Louisville."

At evening I was informed by Dr. Kil-ton, Medical Inspector, U. S. A., and Gen. Sherman's Medical Adviser, that a move-

ment of the army was being made, which would expose our goods to raids from the enemy; that the wounded would be immediately sent to Chattanooga, and our goods should be sent to Ringgold. Ten wagons were procured of the Medical Purveyor, and such goods as were not distributed, or could not be taken with the army, were returned.

Many goods were distributed, and the Agents of the Christian Commission joined us in the work. We gave to wounded men goods marked, "Cincinnati Branch U. S. San. Com.;" "Boston Branch," "Pittsburg San. Com.;" "Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio," "Chicago," or "Western Branch," etc.

The freewill offerings of the people from all parts of the country, were thus brought together, and given in the most Catholic manner, even as they have given their sons.

On the 11th, Government stores, sanitary stores, and the wounded, were all sent to the rear.

As we were greatly distressed lest a battle should occur, and we should not be fully supplied with stores, on the 12th instant I sent you the following telegram: "In case of a battle we have barely sufficient stores at the front for two or three days. There are none at Chattanooga. The wounded have been sent there, and we cannot aid them further. Are there sufficient stores on the way? The articles wanted are milk, beef, spirits, tea, sugar, oranges, lemons, farina and ale. They are most wanted in the order mentioned."

Most of the agents went to the right with the army. I remained with that portion left in front of Buzzard's Roost Gap, where every day some were killed or wounded, until the 13th, when our army had left Snake Gap, and the rebels left their strong position in front of us. At 10 o'clock of that day, I engaged a storeroom in Dalton, and sent back for stores. The stores engaged contained some private goods, including several boxes of tobacco. This, with other stores, was taken a few hours later by our soldiers, and the goods appropriated. For some time it was passed by. I had thrown open the doors, put up a small sign, that it was taken by the Sanitary Commission—and

standing in the door as the soldiers would attempt to rush in, it was sufficient to say, "This is a Sanitary Commission Store-room," and they passed, notwithstanding the crowd became every moment more excited and more dense. However, an entrance was effected at a back door, that I could not guard, and the goods were taken. After this was done, I made arrangements for putting the room in order—telegraphed to Ringgold for stores, and then returned with the Rev. J. C. Hoblit to that portion of our army which had made the flank movement, and passed Snake Gap.

As we came within hearing, we found that a battle was in progress. We hastened on, found the hospitals of the different divisions along the line of battle; secured teams to go to Dalton for goods, and returned with them; found our goods already arrived, and loaded six teams that night, which started back without delay. At this time, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Rev. Geo. B. Bacon, of Orange, N. J.; Rev. John Milton Holmes, Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Jersey City; Rev. Dr. J. P. Thompson, of New York City, and Rev. Dr. J. W. Biddington, of Brooklyn. The two last mentioned gentlemen were agents of the Christian Commission, and came with kind feelings to all who were laboring for the soldiers. They were fatigued, as they had ridden the two previous nights in box-cars, but decided to go on with our goods the same night. We could give them no better conveyance, and they rode in army wagons with Dr. Hazen, Mr. Brandreth, Mr. Pocock, and Mr. Murray, Agents of the Commission. They started at half-past ten.

Not knowing whether there was communication between Ringgold and the army by the way of Snake Gap, I telegraphed the agents there to ascertain, and if there was none, to transfer the goods to Dalton.

Having made the arrangements, Mr. Hoblit and myself slept until 4 o'clock the next morning, when I made a cup of coffee, while he fed the horses, and we started in season to reach Wood's Division Hospital at 7 o'clock. One load of stores was unloaded there, and Pocock left in charge of them, and to collect a list of the wounded; before 8 o'clock another load was left with

Stanley's Division, in charge of Murray, and about the same time two loads reached the two divisions of the 23d Corps, which had been in the battle, in charge of Mr. Brandreth, while Dr. Hazen took two loads to Morton's Division, holding one load in reserve. The fighting continued all day, and the stores were ready when most wanted. Drs. Thompson and Biddington remained with the 23d Army Corps, where we joined them about the time of their arrival. Here many wounded were lying on the ground, outside of the tents, their wounds still undressed, although all were at work. At the same time, the wounded continued to arrive. I introduced my friends to Surgeon Hewitt, Medical Director of the Department, and also in charge of these hospitals. They placed themselves under his direction, and he seeing that they were much fatigued, advised them to sleep a few hours, which they did under a friendly shade tree.

Leaving these two hospitals thus provided, I passed on to others, but not before I saw many oranges and lemons in the hands of the wounded and thirsty, as well as the more substantial articles of milk, beef, crackers, etc.

This visit of the clergymen just mentioned, was just in time to be of much good to the wounded, and it was very pleasant and did much to encourage and strengthen us. It was good to have the sympathy of good and wise men, to be assured by them that they fully approved our plan of work. They saw at a glance the great benefit of working under the direction of the Surgeons; they felt as they said, more at home—avoided confusion by interference with others, and were enabled to accomplish much more than they could by an independent effort.

This day I visited twelve hospitals of divisions on the field, saw that the six loads brought reached their destination, and made necessary arrangements with my associates to collect and forward lists of the wounded. But the work was not yet done. Just at night, there was severe fighting by the 20th Army Corps, in which they had over twelve hundred wounded in two divisions, and a less number in another division. I secured three teams to go to Dal-

ton that night for stores; brought up those held in reserve on the field, and obtained volunteer help from the 1st Division Hospital of the 4th Corps, to aid in feeding the wounded. So well was the hospital supplied with help, that this was scarcely needed, and by ten o'clock they were all well fed, the work being greatly facilitated, or even made possible, by the supply of extract of beef and condensed milk on the field. By ten o'clock in the morning of the next day, complete lists of the wounded were on the way to Louisville. The same day the three wagons sent to Dalton returned, loaded with valuable supplies, sufficient to last until the hospitals were moved to the railroad at Resaca. The enemy left our front the same day, and leaving my associates with these hospitals, I rode to Resaca, and the same day to Dalton, that I might hasten forward stores to Resaca, where the next hospitals were to be established. Here the wounded were brought from Division Hospitals and placed in General Hospital, previous to being sent back to Chattanooga on the cars.

At Dalton, I found it necessary to go back to Chattanooga, after leaving directions to send forward all the stores, reserving only sufficient to feed those sent back.

On the 18th, the hospitals were established in Resaca, and Dr. Hazen telegraphed me that stores were very much wanted, that the men were starving. For two or three days there was a deficiency of stores, as it was found impossible to obtain a sufficiency of transportation, but after that the Surgeons in charge assured me they had all they wanted.

While in Chattanooga, I visited the Hospital Garden, found that it had suffered from frost, drought and hail, the frost killing several thousand tomato plants the night after they were planted from the hot-bed. The drought has checked the growth of many early vegetables, and the day previous there had been a severe rain with hail, which was so violent as to wash a large part of the onion sets out of the ground, and apparently to cut the tender vegetables all to pieces. The gardener was very much discouraged, but the rain was just what was needed, and I saw at a glance that the vegetables would recover

from the effects of the hail, and there were sufficient tomato plants to replace those that were killed by frost.

So, I assured him while he was fretting as badly as a mother over a sick babe, that in two weeks he would feel as well as that mother would on her babe's recovery—that the rain would more than compensate for the damage done by the hail; that the only evil was to make more work, and to check the issues for a few days, and then the garden would be better than before.

On the 19th, in company with two of our agents, Mr. Cray and Mr. Barrett, I returned to the front, but left Rev. Mr. Bacon and Dr. Seymour, sick at Chattanooga. Soon after a storeroom was fitted in Resaca; then Kingston was taken, and a depot taken and filled there. At this place, the army was ordered to take twenty days' rations, and leave the railroad. Before starting, each division was notified that they could be furnished with a load of stores to take with them. Many sent teams, and they were loaded. Where this amount of transportation could not be furnished, a team was obtained for the Corps, thus taking a load which was to be divided with its Division Hospitals. Gen. Howard, being very short of transportation, gave one of his headquarter teams to take goods for the 4th Corps.

Many of the goods taken at this time were furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission. Such goods as could not be taken and were not distributed, were sent back to Resaca for safety, as Kingston was to be left liable to raids. From this place Dr. Webster started with the 20th Army Corps; Rev. Mr. Fairchild, with the 14th; Mr. Brandreth, with the 23d; Rev. J. C. Hoblit, with the 4th, and Mr. Poeck with the 15th. We left to take the fortunes of the army, not knowing when we could again communicate with the rear.

The first night after leaving, Dr. Webster was taken sick, and not deeming it prudent to go on, the next morning he returned. The same morning, under a covered bridge over the Etowah River, was found a wounded soldier. We learned, by letters in his pocket, that his name was Chas. E. Eteler, Company E., 15th Ohio, and that his wife lived in Mount Pleasant, Jefferson County,

Ohio. Arrangements were made to notify her, and to send a lock of his hair, which was cut off and washed from his blood. I left him in the care of a good man of the Christian Commission, who was fanning him, giving him occasionally a little brandy and water, and making efforts to rouse him, but he died without making an intelligent sign.

We rode on, and reached Raccoon Creek at night, but could not find shelter, and were separated from our wagons, begged a cup of coffee from our soldiers, and ate our hard bread for supper. A severe thunder storm came up, and we took shelter under one of the wagons which had been parked on the bottom near the creek, after having sought in vain, by the light of the "storm fire," for something better. After staying there a part of the night, and until the storm passed over, I was invited into the tent of Lieutenant Ayres, of the Sixth Ohio Battery.

The next day in the afternoon commenced that series of battles near Dallas, which were continued with greater or less severity until the 5th of June—ten days. The hospitals were located south of Pumpkinvine Creek, on or near the Marietta Road. At the commencement, they were well supplied with the stores they brought from Kingston, as well as with fresh beef, but subsequently the great number of the wounded exhausted the stores, and teams were obtained and sent back for more supplies. This was repeated sufficiently often to supply all the most urgent wants. In these woods were located the hospitals of the 20th, 23d, 14th and 4th Army Corps; and a little later those of the Army of the Tennessee, even brought from the extreme right to the left, and located with them. The soldiers had been at all times well supplied with rations, except fresh vegetables, but during this time the horses were reduced to four pounds of grain a day, and for three days many of them had none, and could obtain but very little grass. From these woods, the wounded of the 20th Army Corps were sent back to Kingston in ambulances and army wagons. They suffered dreadfully by the movement, several of them dying by the way. Although several of the worst cases were sent to the First

Division Fourth Army Corps' Hospital to remain—men were sent with compound fractures, recent amputations, gunshot wounds through the body—over twenty miles or more of rough road—and when they reached Kingston there was inadequate hospital accommodations for them, and for a time many of them had no beds but the ground, and no shelter.

It is but just to Dr. Kilton, to say that he disapproved of this, and assured me it was done without orders from headquarters, and that he thought it would have been better if they had fallen into the hands of the enemy. The officers of the Corps and the wounded men both thought differently. It is difficult to say which were right. In such a campaign where changes are unavoidable, there must be much suffering. During these ten days before we reached the railroad at Acworth, we distributed not less than twenty-four large army loads of sanitary stores, along the line of battle. Estimate who can the worth of these at such a time.

Early on the morning of the 27th, there was more than the usual sound of battle, and the Surgeons had been notified the night previous to make additional preparations for more wounded. While this is being done, stragglers come back from the front, some sick, others shirking duty in the hour of danger, leaving their companions to stand or fall alone; some pleading a lame back, others lame arms from bad vaccine pustules, some sore feet, others had been ailing for several days, and had "gin-rot," could not march, but had marched back more than a mile—could have found the enemy by going forward half that distance. These were examined by a Surgeon appointed for that purpose, and the shirkers sent back under guard.

As the battle progresses, the wounded are more rapidly brought in; and I saw one placed upon the tables, chloroform administered, his arm examined, and amputated. As he comes to himself, he says, "you had to take it off, doctor; I did not feel it, but every one likes to have his arm, if he cau." His torn and bloody shirt is taken off, and a clean one from the Commission stores takes its place.

They are soon brought in faster than

their wounds can be dressed, the ground for some distance around the tables being covered. Most of them are cheerful, now and then I hear a stifled groan. I notice one with face and hands black with powder and dust, lying upon his back, resting partially upon his elbows, his hands uplifted, slowly approach each other, and then as slowly separate—his face is calm, and his lips move slowly as if in prayer; no groan escapes him, although his wound was frightful. Is it for himself, victory for his comrades, or some dear friend at home, that he prays? So great is the number of wounded, that Mr. Pocock goes back to Kingston for more stores. In the meantime I send a telegram to Chattanooga, to be repeated, if deemed necessary, to Louisville, urging the necessity of keeping up our supplies; that we want at least sixteen hundred pounds of milk and beef at the terminus of the railroad all of the time. This will not give to each hospital more than one box a day for four days.

During the ten days of fighting there were frequent changes of the hospitals made necessary, as the army took different positions. As soon as we had possession of Acworth the wounded were moved there, to await the opening of railroad and transportation to prominent hospitals. This movement again caused much suffering.

We opened a storeroom in Acworth, but before goods were brought by rail, several loads were brought from Kingston by teams. Our goods had sometime previously been brought back to that place. Within a few days, the army again advanced, and every thing connected with the hospital was moved with it, except tents, barely sufficient to cover the wounded, a few Surgeons and nurses, and a very little hospital furniture. Those who remained were left very destitute, were overworked, and had very little to work with. At no time was help from the Commission more needed, or more freely and liberally given. This help may be forgotten, but it was appreciated at the time. From the storeroom at Acworth, not only the hospitals there but at Altoona, and those with the army during the long series of battles at Kenesaw and Lost Mountain, were supplied. For a time the Western and Sanitary Commis-

sions put their goods in the same room, and they were issued as common stock, but subsequently they removed to Big Shanty, and to avoid duplicating our issues, they gave mostly to the Army of the Tennessee, while we distributed alike to the rear, and to those of the Army of the Cumberland and of the Ohio in the field.

On the 13th of June, the number of wounded in the field and at Acworth and Altoona, was two thousand three hundred and seventy-nine; of these six hundred and forty-nine only were wounded, all others had been sent to the rear. This was the condition of the hospitals just before the fighting before Marietta and Kenesaw Mountain, which continued from June 11th to the 27th, without interruption. Almost daily the troops took some new positions, and the hospitals were moved to accommodate them, and every day each hospital was visited by our agents, lists of casualties taken, and as stores were wanted, teams were obtained and sent to Acworth for them. Subsequently the advance of the right wing made it necessary to open a store room at Big Shanty. A room was obtained, cars loaded, but the evacuation of Kenesaw by the rebels enabled us to take them to Marietta.

Thus again, during sixteen days more of fighting, day and night, including that terrible assault on the works of the enemy, were our goods placed in the hands of Surgeons, or distributed to individuals by our agents, along the line of battle, and frequently under heavy fire. The Surgeons construed an order of Gen. Sherman's to require them to place their hospitals much nearer to the line of battle, although previously one man had been wounded while in hospital, and the whistle of minié balls was not uncommon, yet, during these days here they were placed. While Mr. Hoblit was copying lists of wounded, a ball passed through the tent close by his side. One of the hospitals of the 20th Corps was broken up in confusion—so thick did shot and shell fall among them. There was constant rain, and the roads were almost impassable, thus increasing the difficulties of transportation, but by the constant efforts of the agents with the different divisions, goods were brought forward, and the wounded

were thus from day to day supplied at a time when only the army ration could be otherwise obtained. There they were most wanted, and most gratefully received.

The strong expressions of thankfulness at the unexpected gift of a drink of water, a lemon or orange, a dish of soup, a cup of coffee, or a clean shirt, a pair of drawers, a blanket or a pillow, would seem to disparage the work done by the Government, which, after all, is the soldiers' best friend, and his chief support. Compared with what he receives from this source, all is but a trifle.

Each division of the army has a large number of teams devoted exclusively to hauling hospital tents and hospital stores, besides which there is a reserve train of over forty wagons for the Army of the Cumberland. Those with the divisions accompany the troops, and move up to the places selected for hospitals. This is usually so near the line of battle, that the wounded may be carried but a little distance, and get out of reach of shot and shell, that they may not be disturbed, and the Surgeons and nurses may work without danger. It must be near water, as that is indispensable.

Suitable ground having been selected, men are detailed to make the necessary preparations. They have usually been established in dense woods, and one set begin to cut up by the roots the dense underbrush, others make brooms of the twigs, sweep and level the ground, and remove the stones; another set pitch the tents, or build arbors when there is not likely to be sufficient canvas to cover the wounded; others make bunks of poles to make the beds; another set pick the green leaves of the oak, the chestnut, or the pine, to fill the bed ticks, or, if the ticks are not to be had, the leaves are placed on the poles, or on the ground. In front of the tent large piles of leaves are laid, upon which the wounded are to be laid to be examined and dressed. There are three piles for each Division Hospital, corresponding to the Brigades, and before them are three strong tables—provided with a pillow, and covered with a rubber cloth—"the operating tables." Tents for cooking must be put up, sacks must be dry—and while all

are busy, and before the work is half done, the wounded may sometimes be brought in. They either walk back as they are able, or are sent back in ambulances. If the battle is severe, the leaves prepared are soon covered, and hundreds are laid upon the ground around the tents, as was done at Resaca, where not less than twelve hundred were brought to two hospitals in a few hours.

Among the sufferers, most are quiet; some are crying from pain; some calling for water, and some for a blanket to cover them; others for the Surgeon; and amidst all this comes the Agent of the Sanitary Commission, with loads of milk, beef, crackers, spirits, tea, blankets, pillows, bandages, and perhaps a few boxes of lemons and oranges.

With the beef, soup can be made at once. Coffee is made rich with the milk, or milk punch; and many among this number, will be found to be cold, shivering, thirsty, life failing from the first shock of injury; but, by the administration of these timely stimulants they revive. A lemon or orange is given, and with eagerness is pressed to their thirsty lips, and they thank God for the Sanitary Commission, and regard it as home following them to battle and to death. They do this justly, and it is good to be the dispenser of such help at such a time.

Over three hundred of such hospitals as I have attempted to describe, have been put up during this campaign, so long has been the line of march, and so frequent the change of position, and every one of these has been visited by the agents of the Commission with stores, and to obtain lists, and to learn the condition of the wounded.

But what has the Government done? Let the tents erected, beds prepared, medicines and food furnished, ambulances which have brought them in from the field, nurses who wait upon them—Surgeons who work day and night until all are dressed—answer. And it is no wonder that the faithful Surgeons who have done, or superintended the doing of all this, and continue to do it from day to day, are just a little disturbed, when their work seems to be less appreciated than ours.

But it seldom disturbs them, and they regard us as their best friends.

From the storeroom established in Marietta, each division was again furnished with a load of stores, previous to crossing the Chattahoochee; and large supplies were distributed to the hospitals in town.

The wounded have been well cared for, considering the frequent changes, and the great distance from permanent hospitals. True, there has been great suffering during transportation, both in ambulances, army wagons and railroad cars. Some have been sent without suitable food or drink, and sometimes a Surgeon has been sent in charge, who was selected for duty, simply because "he was of no use here, and could be as well spared as not." But such appointments have been few, as there are but few such Surgeons to be found. As to the lack of food and drink on the cars, the cause, on inquiry, has never been found to have been from want of interest in the comfort of the men. I will cite an instance: As the wounded were sent from one of the divisions of the Fourth Army Corps, at Big Shanty, an order was given by the Medical Director to send rations. It was found that there were none in camp, but the teams were starting to obtain them. Then an order was given to supply the men before they took the cars; but it was not done—why, I do not know. Perhaps the teams could not meet in time. The Surgeon had given the necessary order, and, perhaps, even now believes it was obeyed. At no time have the wounded been as promptly brought from the field to the hospitals. From this I judge that the ambulance organization is a success.

To the men sent, as these were, the aid of the Commission is inestimable. At the feeding stations established at Kingston, Resaca, and Dalton, over seventeen thousand meals were furnished up to the first of July, consisting of beef-soup, milk punch, soft bread or crackers, and boiled ham. Mr. E. J. Eno, State Agent from Illinois, also an agent of the Commission, has had the superintendence. He and his agents have been aided by agents of the Christian Commission. I left Rev. J. C. Hoblit, Messrs. Eno, Mason, and Brandreth with the troops in the field, assisted for a time by the Rev. Mr. Wolcott, of Cleveland, Ohio; Messrs. Van Dike, John-

son and Sutcliffe, in charge of the feeding stations.

From the Hospital Garden in Chattanooga as many as six thousand bushels of vegetables have been issued. The one in Murfreesboro' was furnishing more than could be used in the hospitals in that place, and they ask for a large number of cans to put up tomatoes.

From Chattanooga to Nashville transportation has been much better than before; a feeding station has, however, been established on this line at Dechard, in charge of Dr. Hillman. I should not omit to state that these stations have been established by request of the Medical Director of the Department, and rations have been furnished by Government. I have failed to receive a full account of the amount of stores issued during the campaign, but it has been large, and in many cases has been *life* to the wounded.

Scurvy is largely on the increase, compared with the commencement of the campaign. Perhaps it is not increasing as much now, as a few vegetables have been gathered by the troops. As the campaign continues vegetables will be more wanted, and I would earnestly ask that an effort be made to furnish a few rations of onions to the troops in the field. Surely they are more needed here than in the Army of the Potomac, where so many have been sent, inasmuch as they have been much longer deprived of them. Those for whom I ask this favor have endured hardships as good soldiers. They have for nearly three months worked and fought day and night, without rest. They have driven back a stubborn enemy over 100 miles, while the ground was contested inch by inch. They have taken seventeen lines of fortifications, and as strong natural positions as any in the world. They have made over 150 miles of fortifications, and the work is not yet done. They are cheerful, in good spirits, strong in faith, both of the justice of their cause and their ability to conquer. They continue to need our help.

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We have other interesting reports from the Western Department, but are obliged to postpone their publication until the succeeding number.

PRISON AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA.

CAMP SUMTER.

The following statement was drawn up for the Commission and sworn to by the parties signing it. They were exchanged on the 16th of August, and with three others were appointed by their companions in prison as a deputation to see President Lincoln in their behalf.

I am a private in 82d N. Y. Regiment of Volunteers, Co. G. Was captured with about 800 Federal troops, in front of Petersburg, on the 22d of June, 1864. We were kept at Petersburg two days, at Richmond, on Belle Isle, three days, then conveyed by rail to Lynchburg. Marched 75 miles to Danville, thence by rail to Andersonville, Ga. At Petersburg we were treated fairly, being under the guard of old soldiers of an Alabama Regiment; at Richmond we came under the authority of the notorious and inhuman Major Turner, and the equally notorious Home Guard. Our ration was a pint of beans, 4 oz. of bread, and 3 oz. of meat a day. Another batch of prisoners joining us, we left Richmond 1,600 strong. All blankets, haversacks, canteens, money, valuables of every kind, extra clothing, and in some cases the last shirt and drawers had been previously taken from us. At Lynchburg we were placed under the Home Guard, officered by Major and Capt. Moffett. The march to Danville was a weary and painful one of five days, under a torrid sun, many of us falling helpless by the way, and soon filling the empty wagons of our train. On the first day we received a little meat, but the sum of our rations for the five days was 13 crackers. During the six days by rail to Andersonville, meat was given us twice, and the daily ration was four crackers.

On entering the Stockade Prison, we found it crowded with 28,000 of our fellow soldiers. By crowded, I mean that it was difficult to move in any direction without jostling and being jostled. This prison is an open space, sloping on both sides, originally 17 acres, now 25 acres, in the shape of a parallelogram, without trees or shelter of any kind. The soil is sand over a bottom of clay. The fence is made of upright trunks of trees, about 20 feet high, near the top of which are small platforms, where the Guards are stationed. Twenty feet inside and parallel to the fence is a light railing, forming the "dead line," beyond which the projection of a foot or finger is sure to bring the deadly bullet of the sentinel. Through the grounds, at nearly right angles with the longer sides, runs or rather creeps a stream through an artificial channel, varying from five to six feet in width, the water about

ankle deep, and near the middle of the enclosure, spreading out into a swamp of about six acres, filled with refuse wood, stumps, and debris of the camp. Before entering this enclosure the stream, or more properly sewer, passes through the camp of the Guards, receiving from this source and others farther up a large amount of the vilest material, even the contents of the sink. The water is of a dark color, and an ordinary glass would collect a thick sediment. This was our only drinking and cooking water. It was our custom to filter it as best we could, through our remnants of haversacks, shirts and blouses. Wells had been dug, but the water either proved so productive of diarrhea, or so limited in quantity, that they were of no general use. The cook house was situated on the stream just outside the stockade, and its refuse of decaying offal was thrown into the water, a greasy coating covering much of the surface. To these was added the daily large amount of base matter from the camp itself. There was a system of policing, but the means were so limited, and so large a number of the men were rendered irresolute and depressed by imprisonment, that the work was very imperfectly done. One side of the swamp was naturally used as a sink, the men usually going out some distance into the water. Under the summer sun this place early became corruption too vile for description, the men breeding disgusting life, so that the surface of the water moved as with a gentle breeze.

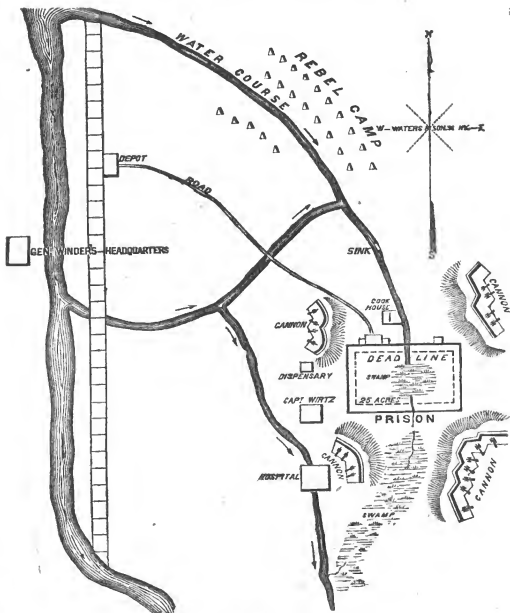
The new-comers on reaching this would exclaim, "is this hell;" yet they soon would become callous, and enter unmoved the horrible rottenness. The rebel authorities never removed any filth. There was seldom any visitation by the officers in charge. Two surgeons were at one time sent by President Davis to inspect the camp, but a walk through a small section gave them all the information they desired, and we never saw them again.

The Guards usually numbered about 64; 8 at each end, and 24 on a side. On the outside within 300 yards, were fortifications, on high ground overlooking and perfectly commanding us, mounting 24 12 lb. Napoleon Parrots. We were never permitted to go outside, except at times, in small squads, to gather our fire wood. During the building of the cook-house, a few, who were carpenters, were ordered out to assist.

Our only shelter from the sun and rain and night dews, was what we could make by stretching over us our coats or scraps of blankets, which a few had, but generally there was no attempt by day or night to protect ourselves.

The rations consisted of 8 oz. corn bread, (the cob being ground with the kernel,) and generally sour, 2 oz. of condemned pork, offensive in appearance and smell. Occa-

PRISON AT ANDERSONVILLE, Ga.



(Sanitary Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 21.)

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sionally, about twice a week, two table spoonfuls of rice, and in place of the pork the same amount (2 table spoonfuls) of molasses was given us about twice a month.* This ration was brought into camp at 4 o'clock, P. M., and thrown from the wagons to the ground, the men being arranged in divisions of 270 subdivided into squads of nineties and thirties. It was the custom to consume the whole ration at once, rather than save any for the next day. The distribution being often unequal, some would lose the rations altogether. We were allowed no dish or cooking utensil of any kind. On opening the camp in the winter, the first 2,000 prisoners were allowed skillets, one to 50 men, but these were soon taken away. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, our ration was in quality a starving one, it being either too foul to be touched or too raw to be digested.

The cook-house went into operation about May 10th, prior to which we cooked our own rations. It did not prove at all adequate to the work, (30,000 is a large town,) so that a large proportion were still obliged to prepare their own food. In addition to the utter inability of many to do this, through debility and sickness, we never had a supply of wood. I have often seen men with a little bag of meal in hand, gathered from several rations, starving to death for want of wood, and in desperation would mix the raw material with water and try to eat it.

The clothing of the men was miserable in the extreme. Very few had shoes of any kind, not 2,000 had coats and pants, and those were the late comers. More than one half were indecently exposed, and many were naked.

The usual punishment was to place the men in the stocks, outside, near the Captain's quarters. If a man was missing at roll-call, the squad of 90 to which he belonged was deprived of the ration. The "dead line" bullet, already referred to, spared no offender. One poor fellow, just from Sherman's Army, his name was Roberts, was trying to wash his face near the "dead line" railing, when he slipped on the clayey bottom, and fell with his head just outside the fatal border. We shouted to him, but it was too late—"another guard would have a furlough," the men said. It was a common belief among our men, arising from statements made by the guard, that Gen. Winder, in command, issued an

order that any one of the guard who should shoot a Yankee outside of the "dead line" should have a month's furlough, but there probably was no truth in this. About two a day were thus shot, some being cases of suicide, brought on by mental depression or physical misery, the poor fellows throwing themselves, or madly rushing outside the "line."

The mental condition of a large portion of the men was melancholy, beginning in despondency and tending to a kind of stolid and idiotic indifference. Many spent much time in arousing and encouraging their fellows, but hundreds were lying about motionless, or stalking vacantly to and fro, quite beyond any help which could be given them within their prison walls. These cases were frequent among those who had been imprisoned but a short time. There were those who were captured at the first Bull Run, July, 1861, and had known Belle Isle from the first, yet had preserved their physical and mental health to a wonderful degree. Many were wise and resolute enough to keep themselves occupied—some in cutting bone and wood ornaments, making their knives out of iron hoops—others in manufacturing ink out of the rust from these same hoops, and with rude pens sketching or imitating bank notes or any sample that would involve long and patient execution.

Letters from home very seldom reached us, and few had any means of writing. In the early summer a large batch of letters, 5,000 we were told, arrived, having been accumulating somewhere for many months. These were brought into camp by an officer, under orders to collect 10 cents on each—of course most were returned, and we heard no more of them. One of my companions saw among them three from his parents, but he was unable to pay the charge. According to the rules of transmission of letters over the lines, these letters must have already paid 10 cents each to the Rebel Government.

As far as we saw Gen. Winder and Capt. Wirtz, the former was kind and considerate in his manners, the latter harsh, though not without kindly feeling.

It is a melancholy and mortifying fact, that some of our trials come from our own men. At Belle Isle and Andersonville there was among us a gang of desperate men, ready to prey on their fellows. Not only thefts and robberies, but even murders were committed. Affairs became so serious at Camp Sumter that an appeal was made to Gen. Winder, who authorized an arrest and trial by a criminal court. Eighty-six were arrested, and six were hung, beside others who were severely punished. These proceedings effected a marked change for the better.

Some few weeks before being released I

*Our regular Army Ration is:

4 lb. Pork or 1½ lb. Fresh Beef,
18 oz. Hard Bread, or 20 oz. Soft Bread or Flour.

1-10 lb. Coffee.

1-6 lb. Sugar.

1-10 lb. Rice, or

1-10 lb. Beans or Hominy.

Vegetables—Fresh or

Desiccated.

Molasses.

Vinegar.

} Irregularly.

was ordered to act as a clerk in the Hospital. This consists simply of a few scattered trees and fly tents, and is in charge of Dr. White, an excellent and considerate man, with very limited means, but doing all in his power for his patients. He has 25 assistants, besides those detailed to examine for admittance to the Hospital. This examination was made in a small stockade attached to the main one, to the inside door of which the sick came or were brought by their comrades, the number to be removed being limited. Lately, in consideration of the rapidly increasing sickness, it was extended to 150 daily. That this was too small an allowance is shown by the fact that the deaths within our stockade were from 30 to 40 a day. I have seen 150 bodies waiting passage to the "dead house," to be buried with those who died in hospital. The average of deaths through the earlier months was 30 a day; at the time I left the average was over 130, and one day the record showed 146.

The proportion of deaths from *starvation*, not including those consequent on the diseases originating in the character and limited quantity of food, such as diarrhea, dysentery, and scurvy, I cannot state, but to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, there were scores every month. We could at any time point out many for whom such a fate was inevitable, as they lay or feebly walked, mere skeletons, whose emaciation exceeded the examples given in Leslie's *Illustrated*, for June 18, 1864. For example, in some cases the inner edges of the two bones of the arm, between the elbow and wrist, with the intermediate blood vessels, were plainly visible when held toward the light. The ration in quantity was perhaps barely sufficient to sustain life, and the cases of starvation were generally those whose stomachs could not retain what had become entirely indigestible.

For a man to find on waking that his comrade by his side was dead, was an occurrence too common to be noted. I have seen death in almost all the forms of the hospital and battle-field, but the daily scenes in Camp Sumter exceeded in the extremity of misery all my previous experience.

The work of burial is performed by our own men, under guard and orders, twenty-five bodies being placed in a single pit, without head-boards, and the sad duty performed with indecent haste. Sometimes our men were rewarded for this work with a few sticks of fire-wood, and I have known them to quarrel over a dead body for the job.

Dr. White is able to give the patients a diet but little better than the prison ration—a little flour porridge, arrow-root, whisky and wild or hog tomatoes. In the way of

medicine, I saw nothing but camphor, whiskey, and a decoction of some kind of bark, white oak, I think. He often expressed his regret that he had not more medicines. The limitation of military orders under which the surgeon in charge was placed, is shown by the following occurrence: A supposed private, wounded in the thigh, was under treatment in the hospital, when it was discovered that he was a Major of a colored regiment. The Assistant Surgeon, under whose immediate charge he was, proceeded at once not only to remove him, but to kick him out, and he was returned to the stockade to shift for himself as well as he could. Dr. White could not or did not attempt to restore him.

After entering on my duties at the hospital I was occasionally favored with double rations and some wild tomatoes. A few of our men succeeded, in spite of the closest examination of our clothes, in secreting some greenbacks, and with these were able to buy useful articles at exorbitant prices, a tea cup of flour at \$1.00; eggs \$3 to \$6 a dozen; salt \$4 a pound; molasses \$30 a gallon; nigger beans, a small inferior article, (diet of the slaves and pigs, but highly relished by us,) 50 cents a pint. These figures, multiplied by ten, will give very nearly the prices in Confederate currency. Though the country abounded in pine and oak, sticks were sold to us at various prices, according to size.

Our men, especially the mechanics, were tempted with the offer of liberty and large wages, to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, but it was very rare that their patriotism, even under such a fiery trial, ever gave way. I carry this message from one of my companions to his mother: "My treatment here is killing me, Mother, but I die cheerfully for my country."

Some attempts were made to escape, but wholly in vain, for if the prison walls and guards were passed and the protecting woods reached, the blood hounds were sure to find us out.

Tunnelling was once attempted on a large scale, but on the afternoon preceding the night fixed on for escape, an officer rode in and announced to us that the plot was discovered, and from our huge pen we could see on the hill above us the regiments just arriving to strengthen the guard. We had been betrayed. It was our belief that spies were kept in the camp, which could very easily be done.

The number in camp when I left was nearly 35,000, and daily increasing. The number in Hospital was about 5,000. I was exchanged at Port Royal Ferry August 16th.

PRESCOTT TRACY,
82d Reg't N. Y. Vol.

City and County of New York, ss: H. C.

Higginson and S. Noirot being duly sworn, say: That the above statement of Prescott Tracy, their fellow prisoner, agrees with their own knowledge and experience.

H. C. HIGGINSON,
Co. K, 19th Illinois Vol.

SILVESTER NOIROT,
Co. B, 5th N. J. Vol.

HOMES AND LODGES.

CAIRO.

During the month of July, 1864, the number admitted was 6,923, from 23 different States; of meals furnished, 15,284; of lodgings, 4,374; aided in procuring transportation, 1,722.

NASHVILLE.

Mr. Brayton makes the following report of the business of the Soldier's Home from November 1, 1863, to July 31, 1864:

No. of Discharged Soldiers admitted..... 1,286
No. of Furloughed Soldiers and traveling
under orders admitted..... 30,661

Total, from 29 States..... 31,947

No. of Meals furnished..... 102,942
" Lodgings furnished..... 34,461
" Deaths..... 10
" for whom Transportation has
been procured..... 25,638
" for whom Back Pay has been
drawn..... 789

Amount of Money drawn and paid
over..... \$120,005 38

Of the number entertained 5,731 were sick, and 2,592 were wounded. There were many more going home on sick furlough, who needing no particular attention, were not numbered with the sick. Chronic diarrhea has been the prevailing complaint. As soon as practicable after the arrival of the sick, they are assigned to beds and carefully attended to. The wounded have their wounds dressed, and if they desire it, have beds furnished them. Such as are able eat at the public table; all others take their meals in their rooms.

All soldiers on arrival report to the clerk, who examines their authority for traveling, registers their names, and procures them transportation on their papers, ready for the next train, unless there is good reason for stopping longer. The sick and wounded are carried from the Home to the cars, in ambulances furnished by the Government. When a soldier is too sick, or his wound is in a condition that renders it unsafe for him to continue his journey, he is taken care of for a few days at the Home, or sent to the hospital, as the case may require.

The deaths that have occurred here, in nearly all cases, have been of men who were too weak to be removed after arrival.

We have only 13 rooms, containing 80 beds, for the accommodation of travelers, and we are sometimes required to entertain 300 men, two hundred and twenty of whom occupy the floors and piazzas, and sleep on blankets. Most soldiers prefer blankets to beds, and the soundness of their slumbers gives evidence of their comfort. Of course we cannot entertain regi-

ments in our narrow limits; we therefore confine ourselves to furloughed and discharged men, and such as are traveling under orders in small squads.

The business of collecting back pay for discharged soldiers has increased of late. I am sorry to say that about one in four of the discharge papers that come from the front are incorrect. This adds greatly to our labor, and subjects the soldiers to the hardship of returning to their commands to have them corrected, often at a distance of several hundred miles.

When the soldier is wounded, or too unwell to return, we send a messenger, if practicable. One has just returned with papers on which nothing could be collected when presented; but being corrected, we have drawn for him \$181.21, and sent the sick man on his way to Louisville rejoicing, by the hospital train. Not long since we persuaded an old crippled soldier to go back to his regiment twice with his papers. The first time he reported that his Colonel abused him, and sent him back to Nashville without correcting his papers. The second time we wrote the Colonel a kind explanatory letter, and the papers were returned corrected, and back pay was drawn amounting to \$220.00, which raised the soldier's spirits from a point near despair to the full fever heat of joy. On one occasion eighteen out of twenty papers were sent back in one day.

Very large numbers of furloughed wounded soldiers are passing daily from the Hospitals in front to their homes in the North, two-thirds of whom are destitute of the most essential articles of clothing. No provision is made to supply their wants, because they have not their descriptive lists. Many have neither hats, pants, coats, socks, or shoes. Cotton shirts and drawers furnished by the Sanitary Commission are all their covering. To such we have given during the last month, seven hundred and one shirts and drawers, sixty pairs of pants, and fifty pairs of shoes. We could have issued twice that number, but our stock has been reduced by the unusually heavy draft from the front.

If the Governors of the States could witness the condition of their furloughed wounded soldiers as they arrive at the Home, with their shirts and drawers saturated with sweat and dust, and rendered offensive with the discharge from their wounds, I am sure their influence would procure an order for a supply of clothing, at least necessary to cover them, and the young men of the North who are now being solicited to fill their places around Atlanta, would be spared the mortification of seeing their brothers and friends hobbling home on crutches, and being carried on litters indecently clothed. The brave fellows do not ask to have clothes given them. The Government owes them, and though they have lost their garments in battle, or had them cut from them by surgeons who dressed their wounds in the field, they are ready to pay for them.

Justice alone requires that a Quartermaster should be appointed for Nashville, who shall be required to keep open office from morning till night, and issue clothing to furloughed sick and wounded soldiers. No loss can accrue to Government by so doing, as the clothes could be charged on their furloughs, and their Captains

could be notified (as in case of having descriptive lists,) of the amount furnished. Nothing short of this will do justice to the suffering wounded, or the people who send and pay them.

LOUISVILLE.

During the month of July, 1864, 15,929 meals and 8,427 lodgings were furnished

NEW ALBANY, (IND.)

During the month of July, 1864, the number entertained was 962; of meals furnished, 2,372; of lodgings, 762.

CAMP NELSON, (KY.)

During the month of July, 1864, the number of meals furnished was 37,179, and 13,470 lodgings.

MEMPHIS.

During the four weeks ending July 30th, 1864, the number admitted was 1,392, from 16 different States; of meals furnished, 4,176; of lodgings, 913; and furnished with transportation, 52.

DETROIT.

During the month of June, 1864, the number admitted was 682; of meals furnished, 7,414; of lodgings, 2,054.

HARRISBURG.

Extract from a letter of J. Jewett Parks, dated Soldier's Rest, Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 17, 1864:

We have our Soldier's Rest now fully under way. Opened it on last Saturday, and since that date, a space of four and a half days, we have lodged and otherwise given aid and comfort to thirty-one soldiers passing through this city. The most of our guests come on the 8 P. M. train from Baltimore, and leave on the 2.30 A. M. passing West, so that much of the night is taken up in attention to them. We try to dress their wounds as far as possible, give them something to eat, and send them on their way feeling more comfortable. We do not have a great many during the daytime, but there is always a press of business on hand. Some are without transportation; others come in to have wounds dressed, &c. The city doctors have volunteered their services, and are glad to come in. There are three ladies who are greatly interested in the welfare of the soldiers, and come down to do all they can for us.

Have visited all Hospitals in the vicinity, some of them several times, and they are now well supplied. There has been a convalescent camp opened across the Susquehanna, which I shall visit shortly.

WISCONSIN SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETY.

The half-yearly report of the Wisconsin Soldier's Aid Society, of July 1st, shows that it has been no languid auxiliary of the Commission. Its gifts to the Army through the Northwestern Branch of the Commission exceed \$50,000 a year.

Dr. Wolcott, Surgeon-General of Wisconsin, writes to the Society the result of several month's

observation of the working of the Commission at the front with Gen. Sherman's Army:

Believing that doubt still exists in the minds of some of our people, not only as to the utility and necessity of the Sanitary Commission, but especially as to whether the means so liberally contributed, reach their proper destination. Having witnessed the workings of the Commission through most of its ramifications, and on a scale sufficiently extensive to speak with confidence, I avail myself of this favorable opportunity to say, that in my opinion no department of the service is managed in a more thoroughly business-like manner, or more perfectly meets the designs and objects of its organization.

If in this I am correct, it needs no argument to prove both its utility and necessity. If it be desirable to aid and comfort men who have laid us under obligations so deep, that our utmost efforts can never cancel them, how, I would ask, can we better begin than by furnishing for their use, such articles as contribute to both comfort and recovery, when confined by wounds and sickness in Hospitals, far from friends and home. It is through this channel alone, that donations can be successfully conveyed to their proper destination.

I trust therefore, that all who have heretofore given, will feel under renewed obligations to continue to give, and those whose doubts on this question have caused them to withhold donations heretofore, will endeavor by greater zeal hereafter, to atone for past neglect of duty.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

CAMP BARRY, Aug. 20, 1864.

To the Sanitary Commission:

Having re-enlisted from Massachusetts, in Battery L, 3d U. S. Artillery, and appreciating as I do the benefits you have conferred upon the soldiers since this war commenced, allow me, a private soldier, in acknowledgment, to contribute my humble mite to your good work.

Truly yours,

REUBEN LIBBY.

2d DIVISION, 2d CORPS, }
Aug. 6th, 1864. }

I take great pleasure in testifying my high appreciation of the services of the Sanitary Commission during the present summer.

The supplies furnished not only the sick and wounded as heretofore, but the well soldiers, also, were most opportune; and the liberal issues of vegetables, &c., made by the Sanitary Commission to the whole army, I have every reason to believe aided materially in preserving the health of the men.

Wishing you continued success in your inestimable labors,

I am very truly yours,

JOHN GIBBON,

Major Gen'l Vol., comd'g Div.

To Mr. J. WARNER JOHNSON,
Sup. Gen. Comm., Phila.

A TRIP UP THE MISSISSIPPI

The manner in which enfeebled men, weak from wounds and diseases, received and contracted in the service, after being discharged or furlonged, have been furnished transportation from the Department of the Gulf to their homes in the North and Northwest, have often claimed the attention of the Commission.

Prior to this spring we have only been able to contemplate the evil, foreseeing no power to remedy it. Of course a discharged soldier has not the same claim on the Government for protection as when he was in the service; but if justice was meted out to him before his discharge in the true letter and spirit of the regulations, he could, with the money received for mileage and subsistence, be able to obtain a comfortable passage to his home. Even then it is not difficult to conceive that men may become so enfeebled by disease or disabled by wounds, as to be unable to care for themselves, and to require medicines and careful nursing. Here would be a legitimate field of labor for charitable and benevolent institutions, supplying an original vacancy, and by extending a protecting arm, render efficient service to our country's braves. Under existing circumstances we must work in unison with officers of the Government, and with all the means we have help to do justice to the soldier.

At this point I wish again to impress you with the magnitude of the good that has been accomplished through our agency in this Department, for the benefit of the soldier in this one particular.

The difference between receiving money for subsistence and mileage for the whole distance to a Northern home, and for only a portion of the distance, with an order on the quartermaster for transportation for the balance, is better appreciated by the soldier than by any one else; it is simply the difference between the value of subsistence and mileage for over two thousand miles and over two hundred miles.

The practice prevailed in this Department up to the past spring, of paying the soldier mileage and subsistence only from New York and Cairo to their homes, instead of from New Orleans or the place of their discharge, and in lieu of that an

order was given on the quartermaster for transportation. That settled his account with the Government, and whether maimed, halt or blind, he must find the quartermaster, and if fortunate enough to find him in good humor, ascertain, if possible, when transportation can be afforded him. He may be obliged to wait a week, perhaps longer. In the meantime what is to become of him? he is not allowed in camp, and is shut out of the hospital. He is discharged, and has no claim on any official save the quartermaster for his transportation ticket. Subject to the temptations and vices incident to a large city, he may squander his money and contract habits to be followed by a lifetime of woe.

Our Soldiers' Home is the only institution that can afford him a refuge, and probably all would not avail themselves of its privileges.

The manner in which our sick and wounded, furlonged and discharged soldiers are shipped home, is too revolting to contemplate. A safe shipment of high-blooded stallions, cotton, sugar and other products of the tropics, seemed to receive more attention than any circumstances that could conduce to the comfort of, and do justice to the soldier.

The remedy to this evil was accomplished by bringing the facts to the notice of the Chief Paymaster, who issued an order that all Paymasters should pay to the soldier subsistence and mileage at current rates for the whole distance between New Orleans and the place of muster.

About the last of January, through the influence of Dr. Stipp, Medical Inspector of the Department, the Quartermaster assigned to the Medical Department the steamer *Laurel Hill*. Under the direction of the Commission she was fitted up completely for a hospital boat, and made one trip to Cairo successfully. Our Agent, Mr. Furness, and a colored cook accompanied this trip. In addition to that, I will say that two Surgeons were detailed by the Medical Director to have special charge of the sick, and general charge of the boat. They received their orders from the Medical Director. At the same time orders were issued by the Quartermaster to the captain of the boat to turn his boat over to the

Quartermaster at Cairo, to be loaded by him, without any reference to the wishes of the Medical Department. Accordingly, between four and five hundred recruits were ordered aboard on her return trip. The tables that had been erected were destroyed, and some damage and loss accrued to our stores.

It was confidently expected by the Medical Department that the *Laurel Hill* on her return to New Orleans would immediately make another trip, as about two hundred discharged and furloughed soldiers were awaiting transportation. But by the order of the Chief Quartermaster the bunks were removed as a military necessity, and the steamer detained for transportation of troops within the Department.

About the first of March, through the influence of Maj.-Gen. Reynolds, and Dr. Stipp, the Medical Department obtained from the Quartermaster's Department another steamer, the *N. W. Thomas*, to be fitted up and used as a hospital boat, and the assistance of the Commission was again solicited.

Our experience with the *Laurel Hill* was sufficient to convince me that a copartnership between the Quartermaster and Medical Departments was not desirable, and ought not to exist, except under the control of the latter.

There could be no objection to the transportation of freight and a limited number of passengers, but an indiscriminate use of the boat for anything and everything, anybody and everybody, was absurd, and I declined taking any part in the matter, unless some arrangement could be made more favorable to the Medical Department.

Being assured that the boat should be under my control, carpenters were at once employed, and under the direction of Mr. Ftnness, two rows of bunks were constructed in the centre of the cabin, three berths high, to accommodate one hundred and twenty men. With these, and the unoccupied staterooms, one hundred and fifty could be comfortably provided with beds. A temporary storeroom was built on the port-guard, and a kitchen, provided with a range, was constructed on the lower deck. Tables were arranged on the boiler-deck in front of the cabin, to accommodate eighty

men. The more feeble were fed in the back cabin and in their berths, according to circumstances. Two Surgeons were detailed to have special charge of the sick; and I received an order, (which I append,) from Dr. Stipp, to take full charge of the steamer except as to its running.

The captain of the boat received orders from the Quartermaster to report to the Quartermasters at Vicksburg and Memphis for fuel, and at Cairo for fuel and freight, "not to interfere with the sanitary purposes of the boat."

Two thousand rations were drawn from the Commissary, including one thousand rations of fresh beef. The beds and bedding, everything that pertains to a hospital ward, kitchen and table furniture, assorted vegetables, delicacies and stimulants, were all provided from our storeroom—(a list of which I append,)—the gifts of loyal hearts, and work of loyal sinew in the Northeast and Northwest—another instance of the universality of the Commission, recognizing no sectional differences, succoring alike the soldier from Maine and Iowa, and every intervening locality.

With our flag flying at the fore, at five o'clock, P.M., March 12th, we moved from our moorings, and steamed up the river. It was fitting that our flag, the symbol of this great charity of the American people, should wave over us. Supported and sustained by generous hearts and the earnest prayers of millions, it was a guaranty of safe transit in a long journey through a section infested by guerrillas.

The knapsacks and baggage belonging to the men were checked, and stored away for protection. I persuaded the men not to carry much money on their persons, offering to take it and give a receipt of safe-keeping. Between five and six thousand dollars was intrusted to my care, and delivered again to the owners on their arrival at Cairo. The sickest men were arranged in the staterooms, and especially provided for by careful nurses, who bestowed every attention. The services of Miss Trotter, of Bloomington, Illinois, were secured, who rendered efficient service towards the most feeble.

At Baton Rouge we landed the next day

and received aboard a few furloughed men. Here, the boiler of our boat was discovered to be leaking, and we were obliged to "tie up" for repairs, and wait for assistance to come to us from New Orleans. This delay was discouraging and disheartening to the men, and the occasion of some uneasiness. The furloughs of those who were looking forward to a respite at home, were expiring in a place and condition unenviable. The delay, too, served to depress the spirits of those more feeble, who only hoped to reach home to die in the midst of their families. At this place, two, who had clung to the elastic thread of a hope of once more meeting their friends at home, died, and were interred in the Soldiers' Burying Ground.

After four days' delay we again proceeded up stream, and landing next at Port Hudson, we received aboard all the discharged and furloughed soldiers at this post. On route to Vicksburg another soldier, from the interior of Indiana, died, and was buried there.

The personal effects of all those who died were intrusted to my care, and forwarded by me on arrival at Cairo, per Adams' Express, to their friends, as generally directed by them before death.

At Vicksburg and Memphis, I was able to obtain some stores from our own storeroom, but was obliged to purchase others to eke out the long journey still before us.

After leaving Memphis, nothing of interest or regret occurred to vary the monotony of a long trip up the river.

Among the men a spirit of contentment and thankfulness was exhibited that was refreshing to witness, and many benedictions were pronounced on the ever-provident U. S. Sanitary Commission.

My arrival at Cairo at this time was opportune, as I met Dr. Warriner in charge of steamer Dunleith, loaded with stores, en route for all the posts on the river, including New Orleans. Instructions having been given to the Quartermaster not to interfere with the sanitary purposes of the boat, I was enabled to take what stores were destined for New Orleans, aboard the Thomas, thus making the trip of the Dunleith below Vicksburg unnecessary, and less expensive to the Commission. I received from Dr. Warriner, at this time, about one thousand

barrels of pickles and vegetables, thirteen barrels of ale, and other stores needed in the Department of the Gulf.—*Dr. Blake's Report.*

DIARY OF MRS. E. C. PORTER,

AGENT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN THE
ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Mrs. Porter accompanies Mrs. Bickerdyke in her arduous labors at the front, among the wounded, where both have labored indefatigably these last two months. To give some idea of the kind of service they render our wounded men, their method of work, and how indispensable are sanitary stores in times of battle, we publish Mrs. Porter's diary, written during the month of May. Its interest will be sufficient excuse for the publication of so interesting a document.

NEAR THE BATTLE GROUND, SUGAR CREEK, GA. }
GEN. LOGAN'S HEADQUARTERS, May 15, 1864. }

I have just reached this place, where I hear the constant roar which tells of battle and of death. The battle has just commenced, and several wounded have been brought in who are to be sent north. Our batteries are engaged. The poor privates who are wounded cannot leave at once.

Mrs. Bickerdyke left on the 10th for Chattanooga. I followed on Wednesday, in company with Rev. Drs. Budington and Thompson, N. Y. agents of the Christian Commission, sent here on a tour of observation. We reached Chattanooga yesterday morning. I found Mrs. Bickerdyke had gone on to Ringgold, and so I took the noon train and came down to Ringgold, where I found Mrs. Bickerdyke in the Sanitary rooms, preparing supplies to take forward in teams that were going out in the morning. We slept in a soldier's tent that night and were in readiness to start in the morning. Mrs. Bickerdyke had sent forward the evening before such sanitary stores as could be taken in the teams.

I wish I could give you a description of our mule train—a long solemn train of mule teams! most of them looking as if dragging heavily, and many making a mighty effort to take their last load to the scene of strife. Can you imagine such a train? reaching all the way from Ringgold to Sugar Creek, a distance of twenty-five miles? Such a train has almost literally filled the way with sup-

plies to our army to-day. The supplies are to go by railroad soon, and the mules which are falling on the right hand and on the left, from over-work, poor fare and exhaustion, will be relieved.

We reached Sugar Creek about six o'clock, and were most kindly received at Gen. Logan's headquarters—where I am now writing—by Gen. Smith and others of his staff. They informed us that Gen. Logan had been on the battle-field since last evening. The enemy's guns are loud and rapid now, and although I do not think we can go to the battle-field to-night, it will be difficult to stay away from it while this roar of artillery continues, knowing that many poor fellows are needing our care and attention.

Col. Smith has assured Mrs. Bickerdyke that the ambulance or anything else which he can furnish, shall be supplied to aid her in her work. Mrs. Bickerdyke was very desirous of going to the hospital in the field immediately to night, but it was not best. It is five miles distant, and she needs rest.

MONDAY, May 17.

Never have I passed such a Sabbath as yesterday, and I wish I could believe there never would be such another. We rose very early, after hearing the artillery all night as the fight went on, terrible in its echo, and terrible not only to our enemies, but to many of our noble brothers, who have suddenly fallen, or are left mutilated to languish in an extempore hospital at the front.

Gen. Logan's headquarters, where we passed the night, are about four miles from the battle-field. The wounded were brought into hospitals, quickly and roughly prepared in the forest, as near the field as safety would permit. Upon arriving at the place for the First Division Hospital, we were met by the familiar face of Dr. Woodworth, of Chicago, whom we knew would do all in his power to relieve the suffering. What a scene was presented! Precious sons of northern mothers, beloved husbands of northern wives were already here to undergo amputation, to have wounds probed and dressed, or broken limbs set and bandaged. Some were writhing under the surgeon's knife, but bore their suffering brave-

ly and uncomplainingly. There were many whose wounds were considered slight, such as a shot through the hand, arm, or leg, which but for the contrast with severer cases, would seem dreadful. Never was the presence of women more joyfully welcomed. It was touching to see those precious boys looking up into our faces with such hope and gladness. It brought to their minds mother and home, as each testified while his wounds were being dressed; "This seems a little like having mother about," was the reiterated expression of the wounded, as one after another was washed and had his wounds dressed. Mrs. Bickerdyke and myself assisted in the operation. Poor boys! how my heart ached that I could do so little.

After doing what we could in Hospital No. 1, to render the condition of the poor fellows tolerable, we proceeded to No. 2, and did what we could there, distributing our sanitary comforts in the most economical manner, so as to make them go as far as possible. We found that what we brought in the ambulance was giving untold comfort to our poor exhausted wounded men, whose rough hospital couches were made by pine boughs with the stems cut out, spread upon the ground, over which their blankets were thrown. This forms the bed, and the poor fellows' blouses, saturated with their own blood, is their only pillow, their knapsacks being left behind when they went into battle. More sanitary goods are on the way, and will be brought to relieve the men as soon as possible.

Now all the supplies of this immense army are brought from Ringgold by teams, and food for the army must be forwarded first. I have seen no bread for several days but army hard tack. The dear boys think it good, and so it is to the hungry men, and when cooked in soups and panada.

We found in the Third and Fourth Hospitals much the same condition of things; all doing what they could to perfect the hospital arrangements, and extemporizing kitchen tents and beds by the hundred, all made as I have described.

The young surgeons are most of them doing themselves great credit by their attention to the suffering. I have seen as

yet but few except young men in the hospitals. There are some venerable workers, who should have the grateful thanks of the nation for their devotion to the suffering.

This evening we were cheered by the arrival of the sanitary goods, which were loaded at Ringgold, under Mrs. Bickerdyke's direction. They are the only sanitary goods here, except the delicacies brought by us in the ambulance, which were sent us direct from Chicago. From them every wounded man had not only a cooling draught of lemonade, but many other comforts which seemed to be just what was needed, and which have called forth repeated blessings upon the Sanitary Commission.

Last night there was sharp fighting again, if the constant roar of heavy artillery tells truly. Our tent was spread near the wounded and the dying, and was filled with barrels of lemons, pickles and various other articles of comfort. Our bed was composed of dry leaves, spread with a rubber and soldier's blanket—our own blankets, with pillows and all, having been given out to sufferers long before night. Our tent is located about two miles from the seat of action, and every discharge is distinctly heard. This morning report says the enemy are going toward Atlanta.

Several wounded men have died during the night. Mrs. Bickerdyke and myself are going out to look after another division of wounded men. Mr. Tone, of the Sanitary Commission, has just arrived, to make some arrangements for getting forward the supplies which are now so much needed, and will be demanded yet more in a day or two.

May 19th.

I wrote the above two days since, and have had no more time to write until now. But since then I have passed through thrilling scenes, and have witnessed many deaths, which have left fond wives in widowhood and made many children fatherless, who had looked forward to July with fond hopes. "Then father's time in the army will be out, and we will be so glad!"

Yesterday there was a Sanitary agent here, Mr. Tone, and we received from him a few articles, such as crackers, canned milk, bandages, and a few bottles of rasp-

berry vinegar, all so very acceptable to our suffering patients, four of whom have passed beyond our care, and already lie in the newly opened burying place. Yesterday, Mr. Smith, of the Christian Commission at Nashville, was here, and Mr. Lawrence, from Chattanooga. With his usual carefulness for the comfort of others, he left with us his rubber and woolen blankets, which, as we had put our last piece of bedding under the wounded men, were gratefully received. He has gone for more supplies. When he returns, we hope the wants of our boys will be met.

You cannot imagine the condition of our wounded men who have had no change of clothing. Think of a wounded man lying in his shirt saturated with blood, and wearing it until it becomes dry and hard, his blanket in the same condition, and he lying on the ground without pillow, except his knapsack. We brought several pillows, and when I put one of them under the head of a great sufferer, he said, "Oh, that is so soft!" As I passed along, yesterday, one of the boys looked up imploringly, and said, "Oh, my bed is hard!" I had just taken a pillow from the bed of a man just dead, and laid it out to dry. I asked, "shall I bring that?" "Yes," he said, and when I brought it, stained with his comrade's blood, and laid his weary aching head upon it, he replied, "Oh, that is such a relief!" We know there are sanitary stores in abundance, and that they are on the way, and we also realize the difficulty of getting anything to us, in our remote locality, so far from the railroad, where every thing must be brought by teams. We are hourly expecting sanitary goods, which will furnish the boys with comforts that mothers, wives and sisters have prepared.

Mrs. Bickerdyke has succeeded in bringing about a little more order to-day in feeding these three hundred men. The painful work has commenced of removing these men to Resaca, about three miles from the place where they were first received. This arrangement is deemed best, as it brings them at once upon the railroad, where they can be sent North at some time, and I am told that most are to be sent North as soon as practicable. No one who has not seen the immediate effects of a battle can have

any idea of its horrors. I am daily grateful to God for having raised up and strengthened for the work of comforting the wounded "Mother Bickerdyke," as the soldiers truly call her. She has followed them with a mother's self-sacrificing devotion, and the high patriotism and benevolence which exist in her nature. She never fails in the time of the soldier's necessity, no matter what that necessity may be. Like a true mother she is ready for it. She is ready to contend for his rights, as many in authority have been made to feel, and she is sustained in labors which seem supernatural. I hope mothers, wives and sisters will appreciate her services, and give to her dear fatherless boys aid when needed, as she has rendered it to theirs.

To day every kettle which could be raised has been used in making coffee. Mrs. Bickerdyke has made barrel after barrel, and it is a comfort to know that multitudes are reached, and cheered, and saved. Two hundred and sixty slightly wounded men just came to this point, on the cars on their way North, all hungry and weary, saying, "We are so thirsty," "Do give us something to eat." Mrs. Bickerdyke was engaged in giving out supper to the three hundred in wards here, and told them she could not feed them then. They turned away in sorrow and were leaving, when learning who they were—wounded men of the 20th Army Corps—and their necessity, she told them to wait a few moments, she would attend to them. She gave them coffee, krant, and potato pickles, which are never eaten but by famished men, and for once they were a luxury. I stood in the room where our supplies were deposited, giving to some crackers, to some pickles, and to each hungry man something.

One of the green cards that come on all the stores of the Northwestern Commission Mrs. Bickerdyke had tacked upon the wall, and this told the inquirers from what branch of the Commission the supplies were obtained. The men were mostly from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and most grateful recipients were they of the generosity of the Northwest.

You can imagine the effort made to supply two barrels of coffee, with only three camp kettles, two iron boilers, holding two

pailfuls, one small iron teakettle, and one saucepan to make it in. These, all placed over a dry rail fire, were boiled in double quick time, and were filled and refilled till all had a portion. Chicago canned milk never gave more comfort than on this occasion, I assure you. Our cooking conveniences are much the same as at Missionary Ridge, but there is to be a change soon. The Medical Director informs me that this is to be a recovering hospital, and cooking apparatus will soon be provided.

FIELD HOSPITAL, REBACA, GA., May 20th.

All convalescents are this morning ordered from this hospital. Mrs. B. and myself feel that we must leave these, now comparatively provided for, and hasten to the front, to those who are in the condition in which we found these. Many of the wounded are doing well. All who will recover are improving. Yesterday we received from government tents, cots and other comforts for the relief of our wounded, who have been lying on the ground, though bunks have been prepared for many.

Mrs. Bickerdyke is moving among the wounded, and is doing good as she has opportunity. Last night as I slept in my tent, surrounded by the wounded, I was awakened by dreadful cries and groans, as if of one in distress. It continued, seeming like the death agonies of a strong man. My first impulse was to go to him, but that I could not do. At length the groans ceased, and when I inquired of our surgeon, from whose tent they proceeded, he said it was a wounded rebel prisoner, who died in the night. The rebel wounded bear their sufferings less bravely than our men.

KINGSTON, GEORGIA, May 21st.

Yesterday morning we arrived at Kingston, sleeping in cars, and accompanied by officers, and a minister sent by the Christian Commission. The cars were filled with sacks of corn upon which we rested. We reached here and took breakfast with agents of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. There is great hurrying to and fro, for an order has been issued for a forward move to-morrow, and all are making preparations. Rations for twenty days are ordered. Mrs. Bickerdyke took an ambulance and rode out to Gen. McPherson's

head-quarters, to learn from him what we should plan to do. The General encouraged our going forward, by assuring us that transportation should be furnished for our sanitary goods. On the matter of transportation, Col. Smith, or rather the Quarter-Master of the corps, informed us that the best ambulance and driver should be at our command, if we would go forward, and that our services were appreciated so highly, that everything should be done to facilitate and aid us in our work. From other officers we received the same assurance. We took out a few comforts to the batteries, and found them in remarkable health and spirits, considering the struggle through which they had passed.

May 23d.

Sanitary agents have issued several tons of vegetables and other sanitary goods, to-day, to the different divisions of this great army. Mrs. Bickerdyke has received this morning a large supply for our use among the wounded, which are to be sent forward to be in readiness for the next contest, which is no doubt near at hand. The Indiana agent sent us supplies at Resaca which we have reserved for the coming want. Mrs. Bickerdyke was greeted on the street by a soldier on horseback: "Mother," said he, "is that you? Don't you remember me? I was in the Hospital, my arm amputated, and I was saved by your kindness. I am so glad to see you," giving her a beautiful bouquet of roses, the only token of grateful remembrance he could command. Mrs. B. daily receives such greetings from men, who say they have been saved from death by her efforts. The blessing of many ready to perish is no small reward, and it is hers in overflowing measure.

May 24th.

Last evening two or three hundred exhausted men were sent here faint and weary. Mrs. B. and myself tried with what means we had, to meet their necessities. Mrs. B. made them coffee, and we gave them pickles and other food, which refreshed them greatly. They felt that if they could rest and have enough to eat, such as they needed, they would soon be able to do duty. This morning the surgeon of a hospital

called to ask that we would go and help him in his work, which we promised to do.

About an hour ago a great excitement prevailed, as it was said the rebels were coming upon us with a dash. Such a stampede among the stragglers, and so many pale faces I have not before seen. We were having our boxes shipped for Resaca. Hastened by the fright most of them were shipped, but four or five valuable packages remain, and we design to get them off as soon as possible, as it is thought guerrillas will make another attempt here.

FIELD HOSPITAL UNDER CARE OF DR. WRIGHT, }
May 25th.

Yesterday, as the trains were passing about four miles from here, they were attacked by our enemies. Four soldiers who had dismounted were killed, first slightly wounded, then evidently knocked on the head with a gun or club. That was the surgeon's testimony, and the most inexperienced observer would come to the same conclusion, who looked upon their bruised, broken faces. What exhibitions do we daily receive of the chivalry of our high-minded southern foes? Could Satan himself give stronger proofs of his love of evil than these devoted servants of their master?

Last evening, having seen most of our sanitary goods on the cars, I left the town, which it was thought might be filled with rebels to-day, and came to this field hospital. Mrs. Bickerdyke had taken a few articles and gone up in the morning, with men and women to clean and put things in order to feed and comfort the sad, exhausted and wounded soldiers. I found the house filled with such already. The beautiful, but filthy premises, under her direction had been made comfortably clean, and now the floors were covered with soldiers, resting their weary heads on knapsacks or blouses, many of them without blankets even. On the march they have thrown everything away, because they are so burdened. They often start with very heavy burdens, unwilling to give up any of the little comforts they have gathered about them, but as the heat increases and the soldiers become weary, one thing after another is thrown away, until only their knapsacks which contain their rations, and their cups remain.

The failing and faint-hearted are constantly coming in. They report themselves sick, and a few days of rest and nourishing food will restore most of them, but some have made their last march, and will soon be laid in a soldier's grave! Mrs. B. has sent gruel and other food, which I have been distributing according to the wants of the prostrate multitude, all on the floor. Some are very sick men! It is a pleasure to do something for them. They are all dear to some circle, and are a noble company. Two hundred are gathered here. Sanitary goods are our dependence in taking care of them. We have received liberally from the Western Commission, and some very valuable articles from the Christian Commission, and have made them tell upon the comfort of those ready to perish. How often do I hear the remark, "What should we have done but for the Sanitary Commission?" We suffer the greatest inconvenience from the want of cooking utensils. It is very hard work to provide food for so many hundreds, without any other convenience than an out-door fire, under the heat of a summer sun. A tent does not exclude this heat. Soup kettles and large ranges would diminish the labor, and add greatly to our ability to be useful. Mrs. Bickerdyke applied to Louisville for such aid, knowing by experience the hard service which must be required, but they have not come, probably on account of difficulty in the way of transportation, and she will toil on without them until her strong constitution is undermined, I fear.

Wednesday.

Heavy firing was heard in front yesterday. To-day three hundred and twelve men have been fed and comforted here. This morning Mrs. Bickerdyke made mush for two hundred, having gathered up in various places kettles, so that by great effort out of doors she can cook something. Potatoes, received from Iowa, and dried fruit and canned, have been distributed among the men. Many of them are from Iowa. "What could we do without these stores?" is the constant inquiry.

May 26.

I have visited the deserted hospitals near us, erected after Chattanooga was shelled

by our troops, as I was informed by a lady who lives near. They are of sufficient size to accommodate 1,000 sick and wounded men, are built according to the directions of their Medical Board, and are altogether the best arrangements for a temporary hospital which I have seen, nothing wanting for convenience or comfort, and the location one of the best that could have been chosen. The rebels know how to take care of themselves. They were hurried out of the hospital last week, and as they evacuated took their sick with them. The place we occupy is by no means as convenient, this being a private residence merely. But the plan is to send our men North, if they cannot go forward. Hundreds have already gone, and multitudes are on the way. A company of poor white women came to see us this morning, who said, "Georgia never went out of the Union of her own free will, but she could not help herself." They say, "our children are to be bound out to the planters, and we put into the hospitals to do the work, and thus be separated from our children; we know they'll do it if they can. The ladies say that they will have our children for servants if they can't get the niggers, and they will."

May 27th.

Andrew Somerville, a faithful soldier, who went down to Resaca with our sanitary goods, after having put them into Mr. Jones (the agent's) hands, was overpowered by a band of drunken soldiers, who were on a wild robbing expedition. They took some things after having knocked him down. A guard was called and military power exerted to arrest them. A telegram from Rome asking for sanitary goods. I shall go to Resaca for them as the wounded are suffering.

May 28th.

There is heavy firing in the direction of Rome. I concluded to telegraph to Resaca and wait until to-day. Everything indicates the necessity of comforts for the wounded. There is a sharp contest going on to protect a gap in the mountains.

May 29th.

Last evening, in view of the wants of the wounded, who were reported coming in to be sent forward, I went to Resaca to get supplies, and returned this morning.

To-day we hear of dreadful slaughter and suffering, and we are told that a train of ambulances is on its way to this point with the wounded. The Colonel of the 83d Ohio Regiment ran into our room to ask for supplies to go out to his regiment; Dr. Everett of the 10th Iowa also. We shall give them all we can spare. But, if our supplies were increased four-fold, we could easily use them.

In another letter, dated Kingston, Geo., June 1st, Mrs. Porter says: "We have received, fed, and comforted at this hospital, during the past week, between 4,000 and 5,000 wounded men, and still they come. Our sanitary stores are just what we need, and to-day we have received a quantity from Resaca, and a telegram from Mr. Read, United States Sanitary Agent at Chattanooga, requesting us to draw upon that depot for anything we need, which we shall be glad to do. All the food and clothing have passed under our supervision, and, indeed, almost every garment has been given out by our hands. Almost every article of special diet has been cooked by Mrs. Bickerdyke personally, and all has been superintended by her. I speak of this particularly, as it is a wonderful fulfillment of the promise, 'As thy day is, so shall thy strength be.'"

Again, writing from Alatoona, Ga., June 14th: "I have just visited a tent filled with 'amputated cases.' They are noble young men, the pride and hope of loving families at the North, but most of them are so low that they will never again return to them. Each had a special request for 'something that he could relish.' I made my way quickly down from the heights, where the hospital tents are pitched, and sought for the food they craved. I found it among the goods of the Sanitary Commission—and now the dried currants, cherries, and other fruit are stewing; we have unsoldered cans containing condensed milk and preserved fruit—and the poor fellows will not be disappointed in their expectations."

We refrain from saying much that we know about Mrs. Porter's labors in the Western Department, where she has been

most of the time since the war began, her modesty even in the foregoing report leading her to speak of others rather than herself, but as children often illustrate the parents, we insert an incident of the late severe battle before Atlanta, as we find it described by a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*:

"Speaking of artillery and heroism, I should notice the gallant conduct of private James B. Porter, of Battery A., 1st Illinois Light Artillery, on the 22d. This young man, who has served his country over three years, having re-enlisted as a veteran, has won the love and respect of both officers and privates by the modest bravery he has from time to time exhibited. On the 22d instant his section was posted near our skirmish line in front of Gen. Morgan L. Smith, 2d Division, 15th Corps, when the 11th Illinois and 53d Ohio, Col. Jones, were driven in by a superior force of the enemy, who made a dash at the two guns and captured them. Young Porter remained faithfully at his post till the rebels fairly swarmed over the battery, when he determined not to surrender, and fell as though mortally wounded at the side of a dead comrade, and for half an hour he feigned to be dead, during which time he was kicked twice, and was nearly crushed to death by the crowd of rebels flocking to examine the guns.

The tide of victory, it will be remembered, suddenly turned, and our troops were pursuing the retreating foe. As soon as Porter discovered that the "Johnnies" were falling back pretty rapidly, he seized a musket belonging to a dead infantryman who lay close beside him in a pool of blood, and gathering up a handful of cartridges, he was not long in loading the musket and sending its leaden messengers after the deceived "chivalry." Yesterday young Porter was Acting Orderly Sergeant, and had charge of two pieces of artillery which were held in reserve in rear of our main line. Private James B. Porter is a son of the Rev. Jeremiah Porter, now serving as Chaplain of the same battery to which his son is attached. Mrs. Jeremiah Porter has devoted her services for the past six months to the care of sick and wounded soldiers in this army, enduring untold hardships. The three members of this family are all with this army at the present time. Young Porter is an educated Christian gentleman, and a fine specimen of the true American volunteer soldier, having graduated with high honors at Beloit College."

WHAT THE AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS HAS DONE.

We conclude in the present number the extracts from the interesting letters from the Auxiliary Relief Corps, publication of which was commenced in the *BULLETIN* of August 15.

MR. S. F. JAYNE.

A COLORED HOSPITAL.

About the 20th of June last a special field hospital for colored troops was established at this place. A squad of Sanitary Relief Corps, under direction of Miss Helen L. Gilson, has been here for three weeks, giving attention in various ways to the sick and wounded—in the same manner as to white soldiers. It has in this time administered to some three hundred sick and wounded men. It has furnished all of the light diet for the hospital.

A large majority of those admitted to this hospital have been the sick; therefore, the demand for light diet has been greater than for the same number of wounded men. In many respects the work here is peculiar. While the men are patient in their sufferings, they are generally otherwise childish, with little judgment in taking care of themselves. It is often difficult to ascertain their diseases; and they give vague and unsatisfactory answers when questioned in regard to them.

Nearly all complain of "misery in the breast," and very many have diseases of the lungs added to other troubles. It is evident that many have been allowed to enter the service who are physically incapable of performing the duties of the soldier.

The hospital, until lately, has been quite deficient in the means necessary for making the men comfortable. Many were for a long time without beds. The wards were not supplied with cups and spoons, and other conveniences for feeding the men. Many of these things we have furnished for them. Among other things, some two hundred tin cups, one hundred spoons, thirty wash-basins, one hundred and twenty-five beds, two hundred shirts and drawers, a large number of blankets, socks, towels, handkerchiefs, head-rests, fans, oranges, lemons, etc.

Few of the nurses are fit for their duties, being entirely without experience in taking care of the sick. Many of them were nearly sick when assigned to duty. Few of them can read or write, and it was deemed unsafe to intrust them with the administration of medicine.

The hospital has suffered from want of sufficient help to do the police and other work necessary to keep things orderly and clean.

Besides the daily amount of light diet, we have several times furnished crackers in bulk to the steward, upon his requisition to supply deficiencies in his bread rations. We furnish stimulants twice a day to all of the low cases that need it. Besides a liberal distribution of indispensable articles, many little comforts have been furnished to the men. Letters have been written for them, for which they appear especially grateful. The Bible has been read to them, and some religious instruction given to them, which they always listen to with interest and delight. Many of those who cannot read express a strong desire to learn, and in order to encourage this feeling, some two hundred spelling books have been ordered for them.

It is hoped that opportunity may be found to afford them systematically some instruction, religious and otherwise, for which their simple-hearted and childish natures are ever eager. It is also hoped that our efforts for these men may become constantly more effective.

Besides the sick and wounded, there are in camp here about fifty fugitive slaves, women and children. They are very destitute, and we have supplied them to some extent with needed articles. They now receive rations from the Government, and some of the women are employed in washing and cooking for the hospital.

REV. W. J. POTTER,
AT VARIOUS "BASES."

I entered the service of the Sanitary Commission at Fredericksburg, about the 20th of May. The Commission had done its greatest work there before my arrival, but still its agents were very busy. The wounded men being removed to Washington, and one element of the Commission's work to which I was first introduced, was the caring for the sufferers while they were being transported from the hospitals to the boats and cars. The trains particularly were very irregular in their times of running, and in their capacity for carrying. Several times wounded men were taken over the river for a particular train, who had to wait several hours, or the whole night without any provision for rations or shelter, until the train should leave. Once a train was loaded, and for some reason the men were again taken out and placed on the ground for the night. A certain number of the Commission were called upon for several nights in succession to go over and feed and care for the men the best way they could.

It was a hard service; the nights were dark, once or twice rainy, and the ground was very muddy; there was nothing to make the service pleasant, save the consciousness that many a poor sufferer was

relieved of some of his wretchedness, and many a one who must otherwise have perished, was saved to life. The Government had done little or nothing for these detained men. It was left for the Sanitary and other charitable Commissions to provide for their wants.

I worked also at Fredericksburg, in the 6th Corps' Hospital, during the last few days that Fredericksburg was held by our army. The Sanitary Commission furnished largely to this hospital, both in the way of articles of food and clothing, and its agents were indefatigable as nurses.

At Port Royal, the next base, no hospitals were established, and our work was to care for the wounded from the general feeding station, as they came in, and during the day or two that they might remain in the village before being sent North. We met the wagon trains with their suffering freight, half or three-quarters of a mile from our station, with buckets of soup and tea, and milk and punch, and crackers.

Often than not, the trains arrive by night, so that our work was quite as much by night as by day. Some of our party carried merely water for wetting wounds—a service that was welcome as any—others were dressers, and dressed the wounds of the men in the wagons or by the way-side.

The houses and stores, too, were filled with wounded, and these also were looked up and cared for, until they were removed.

At White House the same work was renewed—only the hospitals took more permanent shape, and more system could be introduced. I was here assigned to service under Mr. Marshall, in the 9th Corps, with which I have since been connected.

On coming to City Point, the withdrawal of Mr. Marshall left me in charge of the Sanitary work for the 9th Corps' Hospital. We established our tent on Sunday, June 19th; only a few hospital tents had then been erected, and there were only sixty patients present. These were but slightly wounded, and were able to walk. The next day a train of three hundred more severely wounded arrived, and in a few days our number went up to twelve hundred, but the hospital is now reduced by removals to three hundred and thirty-eight, according to this morning's report. I estimate that there have been something over two thousand different patients in the hospital during the three weeks. During the first two weeks we issued very largely of all kinds of sanitary stores, particularly of clothing. Most of the men, on account of the long campaign, and the heat and dust, came in very needy. We gave all the worst cases clean clothing. It has not been possible to keep an accurate account of all the stores delivered, but I judge we have given out at least one thousand shirts and one thousand pairs of drawers. The

great demand is now over, and the Government is also better provided with supplies of all kinds than at first. The tents are now all furnished with bedsteads, and most of them with mattresses.

The grounds are well policed, and the hospital is being put into the condition of a permanent general hospital as rapidly as possible. On an average we have had here a force of eight or nine Sanitary agents. These are assigned to sections of five or six wards each, and attend to the distribution of sanitary articles through their respective sections, and somewhat to cases of special diet and to the wants of the patients generally, so far as they can be supplied from our stores or by personal care.

One of our number has busied himself for two days past in making foot-tubs for his wards out of tamarind kegs. They prove an excellent thing, and I would suggest whether it would not be well for the Commission to furnish foot-tubs to every hospital, so that each ward may have one, or something that will answer for one.

REV. A. B. HYDE.

IN THE SECOND CORPS.

I arrived at City Point June 24th. Being presented to Mr. Fay, and finding my old college friend, Orange Judd, present, already initiated and full of labors, I was able at once to commence some efforts to be useful.

That evening we made our way through "a hundred circling camps," reaching the hospital of the 2d, 5th, 6th, and 9th Corps. For two hours we distributed little comforts, newspapers, tobacco, etc. The next day I was early sent to the ground, and had a full view of the work.

To bring at least 6,000 (we counted 5,924 without counting the negro cavalry) suffering men to anything like home comfort, seemed an impossible task.

But I found in the 2d Corps, to which I was assigned, faithful and experienced men, from whom I learned what to do and how to do it. To feed and bathe, to get a fan, a hat and handkerchief, to furnish paper and pencil, perhaps to write for a helpless man, to pity and pray for the sick and dying, those things filled up the day very full.

Pain in all its forms was before us, and as we tried to mitigate it, constant blessings were showered on the Commission and its labors. As rapidly as the nature of their maladies allowed, the patients were removed to General Hospitals. But there was yet enough to be done. My work grew dearer as I comprehended it better. It was with pain that I found my own health rapidly failing, and obtaining no relief, I felt

it my duty to return home. I had learned to feel the highest respect for my fellow-workers, and had seen with my own eyes the excellent humanities of the Sanitary Commission.

—
MR. A. W. SPERRY.
AT CITY POINT.

I have to report that the members of the Relief Corps attached to the 6th Corps' Hospital at the base arrived at this place on the 18th ult., and on the 20th took up its place in the hospital then erecting.

No sick or wounded arrived for several days, giving us time for preparation to receive them. Several wards of tents were erected, bedsteads of poles with bed-sacks filled with hay were furnished, and the kitchen put in order. When, at length, wounded and sick did come in, they were placed in comfortable quarters and cared for immediately. We have thus far been able to keep in advance of the demand upon us. Several hundred beds are, and have been in constant readiness. The largest number of patients at any one time has been about eight hundred.

The sanitary condition of this hospital is excellent. The camp has been thoroughly policed, the sinks kept free from odor, and the wards have been carefully cleansed of impurities. No cases of camp disease of any kind have occurred. Men come in stripped of everything, without as much as a tin cup, and with clothing dirty beyond description. In several instances they have arrived when there were no Government stores to draw upon. Then our men have gone about among them, and with their own hands furnished nice clean shirts, drawers, and socks, in exchange for those covered with blood, dust and vermin; and cups and spoons with which to take their food.

To the "light diet" kitchen, we have furnished delicacies and vegetables, and two kettles for cooking them. Personal inspection has proved that the food furnished has been well cooked, as a rule, and that it has reached the men.

In many ways the men feel the influence of the Commission besides in diet and clothing. In our daily visits to the wards, we carry soap, towels, handkerchiefs, tobacco, pipes, sponges, letter-paper and envelopes, oranges, lemons, sugar, &c., &c.

A full supply of checker-boards and puzzles kept the convalescents busy for days, while last, but not least, a half hundred Jews-harps made the camp musical to the point of genuine fun.

At Fredericksburg, as a private arrangement, we employed colored women to wash clothing that would not otherwise have been washed. At White House the enterprise was undertaken by the Commission, but the change of base prevented anything

being done before coming here; the work was again taken up. After the first few days a washing-machine was furnished, two caldrons were set up, and three colored women employed at an expense of eight dollars per month, the Government giving them rations. Although unable to get sufficient water, from fifty to one hundred pieces have been washed daily; and now, with additional women, furnished by Government, fifty blankets and a hundred pieces of clothing can be washed each day.

No enterprise has paid as well for the money invested. Although a proportion of the clothing washed thus far would have been thrown away had it not been for the conveniences furnished by the Commission,

In conclusion, experience has thus far shown, that except in extreme cases, when there is a large and sudden influx of patients, the work of dressing and nursing can be well performed by the regular hospital attendants, while personal attention is given to the diet kitchen and the distribution of miscellaneous articles by the members of the Commission. In this way we can be certain that the right things reach the right men at the right time.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

The following list gives the principal shipments from the Depot at Louisville to Gen. Sherman's army, from the 2d of June to the 25th of July:

113 blankets.	3,511 galls. pickles.
498 bed ticks.	4,119 bush. potatoes.
2,107 pillows.	1,874 galls. ale and cider.
2,990 pillow cases.	3,110 lbs. pearl barley.
1,600 sheets.	1,885 lbs. corn starch.
8,983 shirts.	4,623 lbs. ferins.
8,534 pairs drawers.	920 mosquito bars.
285 dressing gowns.	231 arm slings.
1,249 pairs slippers.	278 finger stalls.
9,165 towels and hand'k'chs.	3,466 fans.
253 pairs socks.	152 bats. lime juice.
15,321 lbs. bandages & rags.	960 cans oysters.
1,047 cushions and pads.	80 tons ice.
241 pin cushions.	3,690 lbs. concen'd beef.
56,447 lbs. crackers.	25,920 lbs. " milk.
45,985 lbs. dried fruit.	317 lbs. dried beef.
12,306 lbs. cod fish.	77 boxes oranges & lemons.
7,530 lbs. butter.	2,370 doz. eggs.
12,047 bots. wine & spirits.	2,279 cans fruit.
74 galls. apple butter.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, July 25th, 1864.

T. W. SHERMAN, Brig.-Gen.,
Commanding Defenses of New Orleans.

GENERAL—I have to-day the honor of submitting, in accordance with your request, the enclosed schedule of issues from the depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in this city to the troops within this Department, for the quarter ending July 1, 1864.

It represents very fairly the character of our supplies, as well as the average rate of their disbursement.

The market value of these issues would, probably, somewhat exceed seventy-five thousand dollars.

About 30 per cent. of our issues have been used in the general hospitals of the Department, or have been employed in furnishing and equipping the boats engaged in the hospital transport service.

Most of our stores, however, are sent directly into the field, and in the hands of responsible agents, are distributed, mainly through the Medical Department—wherever and whenever there may be an occasion for the use of extraordinary supplies.

It has never been the purpose of the Sanitary Commission at any time to compete with the Government in the very liberal provision it has made for the comfort and health of our armies. The distribution of supplies constitutes but one of the agencies of the Commission. In many ways it has endeavored to aid the soldier, and promote and encourage the efficiency of the service. Still I am happy in being able to assure you that it is a matter of no little satisfaction that the more material results of our efforts should have been included among the "resources" of the military authorities in this Department.

Yours very respectfully,

EDWARD A. CRANE,
Agent U. S. Sanitary Commission.

Issues from the Depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at New Orleans, Department of the Gulf, for the quarter ending June 30, 1864.

HOSPITAL FURNITURE, &c.

445 blankets.
852 bed ticks.
11 bed pans.
862 cushions.
2 bead rests.
19 lanterns.
72 medicine cups.
599 mosquito bars.
638 pillows.
2,318 pillow cases.
143 pillow ticks.
426 quilts.
2,527 sheets.
98 sponges.
20 yds. oil silk.
4 yds. rubber sheeting.
137 lbs. soap.

2,214 towels.
399 tin cups.
63 tin basins.
24 urinals.
60 flannel bandages.
15 eye shades.
51 prs. crutches.
16 lbs. chloroform.
25 boxes, chloride of soda.
1,442 fans.
15 bbls. old linen & cotton pieces.
10½ bbls. roll bandages.
21 arm slings.
20 lbs. candles.
13 catheters.

CLOTHING.

4,871 prs. cotton drawers.
999 prs. woolen "
749 prs. cotton flannel do.
3,446 handkerchiefs.
343 prs. pants.
6,503 cotton shirts.
1,563 woolen "
692 cotton fl. "

1,639 combs.
172 prs. shoes.
1,726 prs. slippers.
2,414 prs. socks.
934 wrappers.
181 coats.
19 vests.
139 hair brushes.

HOSPITAL FOOD

860 lbs. beef stock.
1,453 lbs. chocolate.
3,942 lbs. condensed milk.
1,867 lbs. corn starch.
1,748 lbs. farina.
310 cans canned fruit.
621 cans canned tomatoes.
1 bbl. pop corn.
30 cases lemons.
600 cases bread.
2 kegs butter.
86 bottles bergam plant.
39 lbs. arrow root.
66 lbs. cocoa.

AND DELICACIES.

½ bbl. cracked wheat.
21 papers black pepper.
25 papers ginger.
10 bottles "pain killer."
67 bottles horse radish.
57 bottles lemon syrup.
24 bottles cologne.
3,650 lbs. cod fish.
120 lbs. tea.
215 lbs. tobacco.
1 bbl. vinegar.
12 bbls. ale.
650 doz. eggs.
95 bottles bay rum.

292 bbls. crackers.
2 bbls. corn meal.
192 bbls. dried fruit.
171 jars jellies.
714 lbs. pearl barley.
22 hams.
346 boxes prep'd lemonade.
84 bottles mustard.
44 bottles cayenne pepper.
1,223 bbls. vegetables, mostly potatoes.
89 bbls. cabbage in curria.
26 bbls. sauer kraut.
395 bbls. or kgs pickles.
12½ bbls. white sugar.
7 cans extract of coffee.
2 bbls. oat meal.
1 bbl. tongues.

1 bbl. syrup.
1 bbl. ginger snaps.
2 bbls. lager beer.
4 boxes catnap.
12 kgs jellies.
1 keg blackberry cordial.
196 bottles. "
3,085 bottles claret.
60 bottles port wine.
347 bottles whiskey.
108 bottles sherry.
300 bottles brandy.
140 bottles bitters.
908 bottles assorted wines.
71 bota. ext. Jamaica ginger.
273 bota. raspberry vinegar.
1,500 lbs. ice.
15 lbs. sage.

MISCELLANEOUS.

3 gross pens.
60 reams writing paper.
10,000 envelopes.
3½ bbls. lint.
5 boxes old magazines and papers.
2 gross pipes.

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- 1st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.
- 2d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.
- 3d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.
- 4th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Baché, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.
C. J. Stillé, " "
Erna B. McCagg, Chicago, Ill.

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A. D. Baché, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
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J. H. Douglass, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

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George T. Strong.
William H. Van Buren, M.D.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

Our Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 5d Avenue, New York.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.

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Soldiers' Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.
Soldiers' Home, Third street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio.—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.

Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malous, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio.—Sup't.

Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio.—Joseph Jerome, Sup't and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C. W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.

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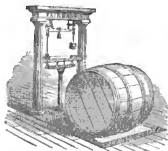
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Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	\$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, **RETURNS IN CASH**, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the **NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY**, as follows:

1st. Upon all **VOYAGE** Risks upon **CARGO**, a return of **TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.**

2d. Upon **VOYAGE** Risks upon **FREIGHT**, a return of **TWENTY PER CENT.**

3d. Upon **TIME** Risks upon **FREIGHT**, and upon **VOYAGE** and **TIME** Risks upon **HULLS**, a return of **TEN PER CENT.**

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

Vol. I.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 15, 1864.

No. 22.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the year, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

Vol. I.—No. 22.

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A WORD TO THE AID SOCIETIES.

The appeal made to the public, some weeks ago, for blackberries and blackberry cordial, has been answered in a way that leaves nothing to be desired. Rivers of blackberry juice have flowed in upon the Commission from all parts of the country, and a more grateful or appropriate or useful flood, it would be hard to think of. Our friends, we trust, however, will bear with us patiently, when we say that we are still not satisfied; that though we have had blackberries enough, we are now craving for other fruit, or in other words that we now want peaches. The season of blackberries is past, and the season of peaches is at its height, and we therefore beg our contributors to turn their attention to the latter. They have never been cheaper or more plentiful, and there has never been a year when they could be turned to better account. The army is still in as much want of fruit as ever. It is leading the same life, eating the same food, and incurring the same risks. But we shall save our friends some trouble, and, at present prices of sugar, a great deal of expense, by saying that we do not want *canned* peaches, and we cannot do better than give the reason why, in the words of Dr. Woodward, our Sanitary Inspector at Nashville:

You inquire what is my opinion as to the value of canned fruits for hospital purposes. I beg leave to state, so far as my own experience goes, they are, as a class, the most useless supplies that can be distributed, and, in many cases, absolutely injurious. As a rule, the peaches, plums, cherries, &c., put up for the market, undergo a process of decomposition, which, though not absolutely fermentative, renders them productive of derangements of the stomach and bowels, inducing diarrhea and chol-

eratic forms of disease. Extensive inquiries among surgeons of great experience in hospitals show that they have no confidence in them as a recuperative diet, and that their use depraves the appetite, and destroys the relish for more simple fare.

It may seem "a hard saying," but I am convinced that the demand for them is kept up by the patriotic and well meaning ladies, who, in the fullness of their benevolence, wish to give to the sick in hospitals all the comforts of home, but who lack that knowledge of physiological and pathological principles, which would make them safe judges of what is beneficial or injurious.

Fresh fruits, in their season, I regard as highly salutary, as are also well dried fruits, which have been cured without any decomposition taking place. Well made jellies are valuable, not as food, but drink, to mix with water for the sick. Tomatoes, well canned, are very valuable in winter to ward off scorbutic disease, and to keep up the healthy functions of the liver, but I believe it would be far better if canned fruits were entirely prohibited.

Testimony of the same kind will be found in the letter of Lieut. Colonel Summers, on page 682.

What we want is dried peaches. Those who have quantities of the fruit which they are willing to contribute, can, no doubt, readily find willing hands to "store and dry" all they can spare.

The fruit need not be preserved with sugar; in fact, no money need be expended in its preparation. Let each individual peach be carefully divided, and the "stone" or "pit" taken out. Then the two halves should be laid on clean boards, (the top of a shed, or lean-to, sloping to the South is a capital place,) and permitted to dry thoroughly in the sun, if possible. Or, in wet weather, they may be dried in slightly heated ovens, or by the side of the fireplace, or stove. In whatever manner the drying is accomplished, it should be thoroughly done—the juices should be completely dried, as a very slight degree of moisture engenders mould, and attracts insects.

Too many dried peaches cannot be sent to the army. They are most valuable in the hospitals and for convalescents, as a curative agent, and are a great treat for well men, when there is a surplus sufficient to allow them a share.

Send on the dried peaches. The children will be active and useful agents in preparing

them, and the older folks, whose stronger hands are needed in the harvest-field, need give but little of their time to the task. Now is the time to do a great and good work. The peach crop has seldom been so abundant, the surplus seldom so great. Now, as a work of humanity, charity and patriotism, let this surplus be so prepared and sent as that the soldiers in the field shall have their full share.

Send parcels and packages to the nearest branch of the Sanitary Commission, or its Central Office, No. 823 Broadway, New York.

THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONGRESS AT GENEVA.

A correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* transmits the following very interesting account of the labors of the International Sanitary Conference, which met at Geneva, (Switzerland,) on the 8th of August. Our readers are already familiar with the movement which led to this Conference:

The organization and complete success of the United States Sanitary Commission have awakened throughout Europe a warm and intelligent sympathy, which is likely to result in immense benefit to humanity at large. Stimulated by the example thus thrown out in benevolent challenge to the world, Mr. Henry Dunant, of Geneva, whose admirable brochure on the Italian war, "*Un Souvenir de Solferino*," has made his name famous in the annals of philanthropy, started as early as 1862 a movement looking to the development of similar sanitary agencies in Europe. Under his lead an association was formed under the title of "Society of Public Usefulness of Geneva."

PRELIMINARY MEETING.

A circular was issued on the first of September, 1863, by this society, addressed to the several Governments of Europe and to leading philanthropists, inviting their co-operation at an International Conference or Convention, and particularly requesting the representation of the different Governments by delegates, to convene at Geneva, on the 26th of October, of the same year. This preliminary convention was well attended, nearly all the principal European

countries being ably represented. The two points which then came specially under discussion were, first: the expediency of organizing a system of volunteer sanitary service, analogous with that in operation in the United States; and, second: the propriety of securing, by mutual treaty between the several Governments, the declaring as neutrals, and the consequent military protection in time of war, of all persons and things employed for the succor of the wounded.

After a most interesting session, in which the discussions were marked by great good feeling and harmony, the suggestions of the Committee of the Geneva Society were cordially adopted. On the fourth day of the session a series of resolutions were unanimously adopted, embodying distinctly the idea of the immediate formation of Sanitary Relief Associations, and detailing the proposed plan of their organization and co-operation under the direction of the Central Committee at Geneva. The Convention decided to append further to these resolutions a series of "recommendations," especially intended to awaken a concordant action on the part of the Government of all nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

These resolutions were couched in the following terms:

1. Let Governments grant their highest protection to the Committees of Relief which shall be formed, and facilitate as much as possible the fulfilment of their mission.

2. Let neutrality be proclaimed in time of war, by belligerent nations, for the ambulances and the hospitals, and let it be equally admitted in the most complete manner for the *personnel* of the sanitary staff, for the volunteer aids, for the country people who go to assist the wounded, and for the wounded themselves.

3. Let a uniform distinctive badge be recognized for the Sanitary Corps of all armies; or at least for all the persons of the same army who are attached to such service. Let a uniform flag be also adopted for ambulances and hospitals in all countries.

The action of the Conference excited a profound interest throughout Europe. The high character and eminent services of many who took part in its proceedings were a sufficient guaranty of the complete practicability of the plans and recommendations

suggested. A warm response to the appeal thus made was given by many Governments.

The Emperor of France wrote a letter to Mr. Dunant, expressing his "hearty approval of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Conference."

The Emperor of Russia was no less prompt in testifying his approval, giving immediate authorization to the Grand Duke Constantine to assume the direction of an Auxiliary Relief Association, under the special patronage of the Emperor and Empress.

From Prussia, Saxony, Wurttemberg, Denmark, Spain, and several other Governments, similar evidences of interest were communicated to the Committee at Geneva, and in a very brief period after the final adjournment of the Conference, Societies and Committees for Sanitary Relief were put in practical operation.

The Swiss Federal Council, wishing to give a tangible realization to the important recommendations adopted by the Conference, issued an official invitation to the several Governments of the civilized world, inviting them to send delegates to a diplomatic International Congress, to convene at Geneva on the 8th of August, 1864, to consider a project of convention or draft of a treaty substantially embodying the points recommended by the preliminary conference of last October. In the preparation of the "Articles" of this rough draft, the special point of volunteer sanitary service was omitted, on the ground that this was a matter falling more particularly within the domain of the domestic attributes of each country, and could not, therefore, be imposed upon Governments in advance by any outside dictation.

THE CONGRESS.

The International Congress held its first session on the day appointed, in the Hotel de Ville of Geneva, and during the past ten days has been engaged in an animated discussion of the various points of the proposed draft. To this Congress none but delegates holding official credentials from the several Governments are admitted. In most instances the delegations present are composed of one diplomatic delegate, and of one delegate experienced in military, medical, or sanitary matters. Some of the

Governments have accredited their representatives with plenary powers to sign a diplomatic treaty.

The following is a list of delegates:

BADEN—Dr. Steiner, Surgeon-Major, and Dr. Volz, Medical Counsellor and Chief of the Medical Bureau.

BELGIUM—Mr. Aug. Visschers, member of the Belgian Superior Council of Hygiene and Counsellor of the Board of Mines.

DENMARK—Dr. Fenger, Councillor of State.

SPAIN—Mr. De Quevedo, Spanish Minister at Berne.

UNITED STATES—Hon. George G. Fogg, Minister Resident at Berne, and Charles J. P. Bowles, E.-q., European Agent of the United States Sanitary Commission.

* **FRANCE**—Mr. Jagerschmidt, Sub-Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. de Preval, Military Intendant, and Dr. Boudier, Surgeon-in-Chief of the French Army.

GREAT BRITAIN—Mr. Lougmore, Deputy Inspector-General and Professor of Surgery; Dr. Rutherford, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.

HESSE—Major Brodrück, Chief of Battalion on Major-General's Staff.

ITALY—The Chevalier Baroffio, Medical Chief of Division of the Italian Army.

HOLLAND—Mr. Westenburg, Secretary of the Dutch Legation at Frank ort.

PORTUGAL—Dr. Marques, Chief of the Sanitary Department of the Portuguese Army.

PRUSSIA—M. de Kamptz, Prussian Minister at Berne; Dr. Loeffler, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Fourth Army Corps of the Prussian Army; Mr. Ritler, Select Counsellor to the Prussian War Department.

SAXONY—Dr. Gunther, Surgeon-General of the Saxon Army.

SWEDEN—Major Staaf, Attaché of the Swedish Legation at Paris.

SWITZERLAND—Gen. Du'our, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army; Mr. Moynier, President of the Genevan "Society of Public Usefulness;" Dr. Lehmann, Surgeon General of the Swiss Army.

WURTEMBERG—Dr. Hahn.

Cotemporaneously with the Congress there has been also in session an adjourned meeting of the Conference of last year. This body is composed of all persons interested in sanitary matters who have been invited by the Central Sanitary Committee of Geneva. Its sessions have been held in the Athenæum, and here has been done the main labor of preparing suggestions for the action of the International Congress. Mr. Bowles, who represents in Europe the United States Sanitary Commission, has done

much good by setting forth in the Conference the extent and scope of the work accomplished in America, and also by the distribution of various important pamphlets, medals and photographs, illustrative of the American Commission.

THE TREATY.

The Congress, after a mutual comparison of views among the members, and a discussion during six days upon the various points suggested for deliberation, concluded upon a protocol of an international treaty, which was signed upon the 22d of August. This "Convention," as finally adopted, differs very much from the first rough draft, prepared by the Swiss delegation as a preliminary basis of deliberation, and which has been published already in the English journals. The following is a translation of the document, which received the signatures of the plenipotentiaries from Italy, Baden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Portugal, France, Prussia, Saxony, Wurtemberg and Switzerland:

CONVENTION FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS OF ARMIES IN THE FIELD.

ARTICLE I.—The ambulances and military hospitals shall be recognized as neutral, and as such, so long as they shall be occupied by wounded or invalid soldiers, shall be protected and respected by the belligerents. The neutrality to cease in case the ambulances or hospitals are guarded by a military force.

ART. II.—The personnel of the hospitals and ambulances, including the staff, the sanitary, administrative and transport service of the wounded, and also chaplains, shall participate in the benefits of the neutrality so long as it shall be exercised, or so long as there shall remain any wounded to be collected and succored.

ART. III.—The persons designated in the article preceding shall be at liberty, even after the enemy's occupation, to continue the exercise of their functions at the hospital or ambulance to which they are attached, or to withdraw in order to rejoin the corps to which they belong. In such circumstances, when these persons shall have ceased to exercise their functions, they shall be transferred, under the direction of the occupying army, to its outposts.

ART. IV.—The materiel of the military hospitals being subject to the laws of war, the persons attached to said hospitals shall not be permitted, on withdrawing, to carry with them any articles, except such as form part of their personal property.

On the contrary, under the same circumstances, an ambulance shall preserve its *matériel* undisturbed. (*Conserve son matériel.*)

ART. V.—The country people who shall bring succor to the wounded shall be respected, and shall remain free from molestation. The generals of belligerent powers shall make it their mission to inform the inhabitants of the appeal made to their generosity, and of the neutrality secured to them in consequence.

Every wounded soldier transported to and cared for in any dwelling shall serve as a protection to such dwelling. Any inhabitant who shall have received wounded soldiers into his house, shall be released from the obligation to lodge troops, and shall also be exempted from paying a portion of the contributions of war that shall be levied.

ART. VI.—The wounded or invalid soldiers shall be collected and cared for, irrespective of their nationality.

Commanders in chief shall be at liberty to transfer soldiers wounded in an engagement to the enemy's outposts, when the circumstances will permit, and with the consent of both parties.

Those of the wounded who, after treatment, shall be deemed incapable of further military service, shall be returned to the country to which they belong. The others may be likewise returned on giving parole to not take up arms again during the continuance of the war.

The military evacuation of hospitals, with the *personnel* in charge, shall be covered by an absolute neutrality.

ART. VII.—A distinctive uniform flag is hereby adopted for ambulances, for the hospitals, and for their evacuation. It must, however, be accompanied in all cases by the national flag.

A badge for the arm shall be worn by the *personnel* declared neutral, the delivery of said badge to be left to the military authority.

The flag and the badge shall bear a red cross on a field of white.

ART. VIII. The executive details of the present convention shall be regulated by the commanders-in-chief of the belligerent forces, in accordance with the instructions of their respective governments, and in conformity with the general principles set forth in the present convention.

ART. IX. The high contracting powers hereby undertake to communicate the present convention to the other governments who have not sent plenipotentiaries to the International Congress of Geneva, with the invitation that they accede to the same; and for this end the protocol is left open.

ART. 10. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Berne in three months from this date, or earlier if possible.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

As an evidence of their cordial sympathy with the objects proposed to be accomplished, the people of Switzerland, and of Geneva particularly, have surpassed themselves in the generous civilities which they have extended to the members of the Congress. The Swiss Federal Council tendered the compliment of a grand banquet at the "Hotel de la Metropole," and the "Conseil d'Etat" (the official representative body of the canton of Geneva,) have imitated the example. Mr. Gustave Moynier, President of the Geneva International Sanitary Committee, (the first sanitary organization formed in Europe,) invited the members to a "tea party" at his villa on Monday evening.

The following evening Colonel Edward Favre, aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army, gave a magnificent *fête champêtre* at his famous country seat "De la Grange," on the Italian side of the Lake of Geneva. It is one of the loveliest of the many lovely villas near Geneva, and not far from the Villa Diodati, so associated with the name of Byron. The house, which is a model of elegant taste, is enriched with a series of capacious rooms, the suite on the ground floor being devoted to reception-rooms, drawing-rooms, dining-rooms, reading-rooms, and library. All of these are well stored with fine paintings by Calame, original statuary by Canova, exquisite bronzes and *objets d'art*, and books of rarest value in every department of knowledge. Through these rooms, most brilliantly lighted, poured a stream of gratified guests all the evening.

On Thursday evening, Monsieur Theodore Vernes, one of the millionaires of Geneva, gave a similar *fête* at his villa, "Fleur d'Eau," on the French side of the lake. A large steamer with a fine military band was placed at the disposition of the invited guests to escort them to the place, and to reconvey them to Geneva. As part of the decorations at various points of the grounds were seen floating the flag proposed by the International Congress for the sanitary service-corps of armies, namely, a red Greek cross in the centre of a white ground. The whole entertainment was a complete success.

The series of private entertainments culminated on Friday evening, in a grand *fête champêtre* at the villa of Monsieur Francis Bartholony, the celebrated banker of Paris, and one of the chief members of the Paris Central Sanitary Committee. Descended from an old Waldense family, M. Bartholony went originally to Paris a poor lad, having to rely on the benevolence of some friends to furnish him means to reach there. By dint of industry, business tact and zeal, he has achieved a very high social and financial position, and, with an abundant fortune, the result of an honorable career, he has devoted himself to the promotion of every movement of public and private philanthropy. His country seat at Sâcheron, near Geneva, by the edge of the lake, is perhaps only surpassed by that of the Princess Borghese at Rome, or that of the Pallavicini family at Pegre.

On the day of the fête in question nothing seemed to have been omitted that could add to the happiness of those present. Just at sunset a regatta of the crack yachts of Geneva competed for a series of prizes offered by the Amphytrion of the occasion. As the fairy-like vessels started off and spread their canvas to the breeze, the lake was a perfect picture, the charm of which was much heightened by the fine view of Mont Blanc, which was tinted over with that rare roseate hue, the *Alpenglûhen*, which Calame has caught so finely in his great picture of Mont Rosa. As the boats came back their arrival was greeted with cheers. As the twilight ended, the large and beautiful trees which form an amphitheatre of a large velvet lawn, closed in on either side and open toward the lake, were lighted with thousands of variegated spherical Chinese lanterns. The rows of orange trees lining the walks close to the house were decorated with what seemed like illuminated oranges. The rustic urns on the broad portico were filled with gigantic artificial lilies and tulips, all lighted by lamps inside; whilst moving to and fro on the lake before the grounds were two large steamers, covered from stem to stern with festoons of brilliant-colored lanterns, and, as they rose and fell with the undulating swell of the waves, made the whole scene fairy-like.

Certainly the members of this International Congress have reason for congratulation that they held their deliberations in so hospitable an atmosphere; and perhaps their success in endeavoring to mitigate the horrors of war, may be traced more or less to this hospitality and universal sympathy in their important mission.

THE AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS.

Acting Superintendent Sperry reports, August 4:

The quiet that has prevailed during the most of this time—the suspension of active operations by the army—has given opportunity for that advancement in the organization of the Corps, which was impossible when every energy was strained in the work of instant relief to the suffering.

This work of organizing is now so far complete, that we are able to define with exactness the work of the whole Corps, and the place and duty of each man in it.

To this work and to these duties I would call your attention: first, premising that any changes that have been made are rather the growth of experience than the result of mere theory.

Accompanying the report will be found a plan of the hospitals at this point.

This plan shows the divisions and subdivisions of each hospital. It, at the same time, shows the plan of our own operations, since these are dependent upon the general plan of the whole.

It will be seen that the whole hospital is divided into "Corps Hospitals," organized with reference to Army Corps, as is the usual custom in this Department at depot hospitals. Also, we have the usual subdivisions into divisions and wards, or sections.

In each Corps Hospital we have a relief tent, and a complement of men sufficient to put one in each ward or section. These wards are usually capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty patients, but are rarely full. In this elaboration of our work we bring our agents into direct contact with every man in the hospital. Very soon each agent becomes acquainted with every man in his ward, knows his condition, his wants, finds out the salient points

of his character, and often something of his history.

Where the right man is found for the work, he soon gains the confidence and esteem of those under his charge; and as time passes the feeling deepens into friendship. This is not theory merely, though resulting naturally from the laws of human intercourse, but is the concurrent testimony of our most reliable and trustworthy men. In this connection I beg leave to call attention to the report of one of the agents of the Corps made to the Superintendent, July 30, containing many valuable hints bearing upon the number, character, and work of our Relief Agents. Its author is a man of refinement and culture, and of holiest aspirations to do the utmost good. Three months of constant, self-denying toil in his quiet corner, entitle him to be heard. I call attention to his statement, that "our personal intercourse with the men, and possession of their confidence, secure that they ask for nothing but what they need, and so indirectly contribute largely to the treasury of the Commission."

So fully do I believe this statement, that I have no hesitancy in asserting, that were all our men like him, each one would be a source of pecuniary profit to the Commission, saving from waste, through the carelessness of men and improper requisitions by Surgeons, very much more than his salary and other expenses would cost. But "confidence" must be gained by qualities fitted to command it. A large warm-heartedness, with generous culture and good common sense, are among the essential qualities of a Relief Agent. So much depends upon the personal character of our agents that our success or failure will be determined by that alone. Are such men difficult to obtain? Then let fewer be used, but let the rule be, *good men or none*.

* * * * *

While the organization of the Corps is uniform in theory, in practice it adopts itself to circumstances. Since a hospital takes its tone from the temper of the Surgeon in charge, so naturally does—*our work*. Where the Surgeon is self-reliant, methodical, punctilious—"capable of running his own hospital!" we agree with him, and with a well-stocked tent and

few men, quietly help him to do it, content to see a good hospital, even if the Sanitary Commission be informed that it could be dispensed with, but is allowed to stay, through a kindly feeling toward the people at home! Better thus to see a poor hospital feebly managed, than hear murmurs that the Sanitary Commission acts as if its stores were its own and not the people's! while we pour out lavishly with a feeling that we are aiding some unworthy Surgeon or steward in his neglect of duty. I am glad to say that this latter is rarely the case; sometimes it is. Surgeons, as a rule, are faithful in the discharge of their duties. Many are among the noble men of the profession. We studiously discourage faultfinding, as also that other evil fallen into by our enthusiastic friends, a belief that we do all the work—the Government nothing. Our work is supplementary—it can be nothing more. Such exaggerated statements falsify facts, and excite the distrust of Surgeons.

As the campaign drags on into the sickly season, we begin to feel heavily the loss of our tried and faithful men. So many have gone home sick, that but few who came out in May now remain. The remainder will soon go by reason of the expiration of their term of service. Soon the Corps must be filled up with new men. Would it not be wise to take this opportunity of securing men for a longer term—for the campaign or for the war.

The attention called to the necessity for good men should not be construed that we have not had good men in our service. As a rule they have been earnest, active and successful. To this there have been and are exceptions. The living members of the Corps must be content to labor on quietly, with no reward but the consciousness of having done their duty. To the dead let us pay a tribute justly deserved.

Professor H. H. Hadley, of Union Theological Seminary, came into the service on the 30th of June, intending to stay until the 15th of September.

As we came to know him we forgot the scholar in our regard for the man. Laying aside for the time his life-work as student and teacher, he consecrated head, heart, and hand to the work of alleviating the

suffering with which he saw himself surrounded. While other men rested he worked, while others slept he watched, until at last, after two nights of care over desperate cases of fever, holding his last watch amid a cold, driving storm, he laid down himself to struggle with the same disease. Always cheerful, always hopeful, he did not wish to go home. At last, when he grew worse and it was plain he could not recover here, he was placed on board the hospital transport Connecticut, to be sent home. He died soon after the boat reached the wharf in Washington.

No truer spirit has ever laid its clay tene-ment on the altar of our country. To those who knew him, his memory will be sacred forever. Nor will his death be in vain, unless lofty self-sacrifice has lost its power over human hearts. *Requiescat in pace* scarce need be written on his grave, for he laid his body down in the spirit of Him who said: "He that loses his life for my sake the same shall save it."

I call attention to the accompanying reports. They are selected from the many in this office, simply because each presents some points worthy of your attention. The remainder contain only such details as are of minor importance.

THE COLORED HOSPITAL.

Three weeks later, August 27, Mr. Sperry writes:

The Colored Hospital was removed August 13th to the ground and tents formerly used for the hospital of the 6th Corps. At this time I was assigned to the charge of the Sanitary Station connected with it.

In the confusion incident to the removal, many of the patients passed, for some days, from under the notice of our agents, and were only found after a new acquaintance with the whole hospital had been formed. Little or no suffering, however, resulted from the change, while there was a positive gain in the superior accommodations acquired. The number in hospital was then quite large—about eleven hundred—but was soon after reduced nearly to its present dimensions, three hundred and seventy men.

Previous to this removal we had no regular station in the hospital. Stores were issued to the light diet kitchen, and two

agents were at work in the wards, and this was deemed sufficient for the existing condition of the hospital. But the bloody disaster of the 30th July, and the growing importance of the colored branch of the service, made it desirable that we should have the same representation here as in other hospitals. This is now the case. We have stores, tents, and mess arrangements capable to meet any exigencies that may arise.

The relations existing in this hospital between the agents of the Commission and the surgeons are very satisfactory. The Surgeon in charge is a man of character, and does not attempt to use his authority for the advancement of his own interests at the expense of the Commission. *All* articles of diet are issued directly to the light diet kitchen, and thence to the patients; and such are our relations with the noble-hearted woman in charge of the kitchen, that nothing remains to be desired, perfect sympathy and co-operation being the established rule.

All issues of liquors are made by our own agents. The Surgeons' orders for stimulants are sent to us each day, and the patients are supplied by our own hands or under our personal supervision. The fact is, that too few, rather than too many, are upon these surgeons' lists. At this station, at least, the charge that "the doctors drink all the liquor," must be false, for they get none of it to drink! In making milk punch, the milk and whisky are drawn from the Dispensary, but it is my conviction that we had better furnish our own liquor, using Government milk. My recent experience with Government whisky has caused this reversal of judgment. Perhaps it is not always of its present "blue ruin" quality. The whole question of the liquor supply is at present one of quality rather than quantity. Shall we substitute a good article for a poor? Whisky and brandy, (usually very bad,) are to be had at the Medical Purveyor's in sufficient quantity. We should, I think, be able always to supply an article of undoubted quality to all severe cases, leaving others to be cared for by the surgeons.

The total amount of our issues is small, compared with the earlier part of the cam-

paign. The terrible exigencies of that time are past. No such destitution is found among the soldiers, and the Government supply is ample. Doubtless some issues are still made unnecessarily, yet most such are to be referred to the difficulty inherent in any system of charitable supply, and can only be reduced to a minimum by care and experience in giving.

Good men in the wards are always needed; especially is that the case here. Most nurses, among soldiers, are deficient in the higher qualities of tact, patience, and warm-hearted sympathy—with, of course, noble exceptions. Colored nurses add to these deficiencies the greater one of a lack of soldierly fellow-feeling for their sick and wounded comrades. It seems a general fact that colored people are cruel toward each other. A white soldier sees in a suffering soldier a "partner" in distress. The word "partner" is not in a negro soldier's vocabulary! In these the barbarism of heathenism has been replaced by a barbarism of civilization, but little more refined and scarcely less cruel. The one positive, and seeking victims; the other negative, and neglecting its victims. As our denial of a common humanity to slaves has taught them inhumanity to each other, so we need to teach them by long years of example, perhaps, that as free men they can claim a common human nature only by being humane. In our work as "Sanitary men," we need a full comprehension of this part of their nature, that while we may detest their vices, we may remember that they are very much what we have made them be. The same spirit that is allowed full play in a charge that gives no quarter, must needs sometimes appear when no such terrible necessity calls it forth.

From the agent's reports referred to by Mr. Sperry, we select the following:

MR. ORRIS.

July 30.

The nature and extent of my work are as when I last reported. Chiefly sick, not wounded, are those on whom I wait. The length of time they have been here has furnished me an opportunity of becoming quite intimately acquainted with them all. The interest which frequent intercourse and personal acquaintance with each has awakened on their behalf, lends wings to our efforts and fervor to our prayers for their

restoration. As I stated a few weeks ago, our personal intercourse with the men and possession of their confidence, secure that they ask for nothing but what they need, and so indirectly contribute largely to the treasury of the Commission. Where there are thousands of sufferers who remain but a short time, this saving of our funds, this indirect contribution to our treasury, could be secured by multiplying the number of our Sanitary Agents. For the agents being more in number, and being each assigned to fewer wards, could visit the sufferers more frequently in a less space of time, form their personal acquaintance, gain their confidence, learn their actual wants, guard against the tricks and selfishness of the nurses, and so secure to the Commission all the benefits that a few number of agents among an ordinary number of more permanent patients would secure.

This multiplication of agents for hospitals burdened and groaning with transient sufferers, would also result in a multiplication of ministrations and benefits to both the bodies and minds of the sufferers themselves. And yet the utility of such a multiplication of agents, would justly be brought into question. For if there be agents enough to do all the service that may be done when the ground is blotted out with sick and wounded men, there will, if arithmetic is true, be *superfluities* when on a sudden a large proportion of sick and wounded are taken away. So that what a multiplicity of agents would save the Commission, through personal acquaintance, etc., with the patients and nurses, and what additional benefits they would confer on the patients and nurses themselves, might in the end be counterbalanced by the additional cost of these multiplied agents, the consequent diminution of the treasury, and therefore of the supplies for future sick and wounded.

As ever, I am persuaded of the broad and mighty work the Commission are accomplishing. Like every work for immortality, it is largely silent and unknown. In that land where the wars of time shall have yielded to eternal peace, and where the inhabitant never says, I am sick, the extent of our work will be known.

August 8.

I have nothing to say in regard to my work, except that recently it has been too great for my powers of endurance.

It is known that all we have, except articles of food, we distribute to the soldiers personally in the wards. I have found it discreet to distribute but one thing at a time in order through the wards in which I wait. I have also found it profitable to state to the soldiers in the wards and files, the modes of our operations, the delicate

nature of our duties, the grounds on which we have to exercise discriminating judgments; the grounds on which we have to say yes to one man, and no to another. With such an explanation, kindly and pleasantly made, a no imparts as great satisfaction, as a yes without it. It also convinces the convalescents of the impropriety and inutility of their flocking to our tent and troubling our storekeeper there.

—
MR. J. Y. PEEK.

July 16.

As an Agent of the Commission and working under your supervision, it is not necessary that I should render a detailed report of the manner in which its stores are distributed, nor need I refer to their great abundance and adaptability to the necessities and comfort of the patients. Permit me, however, to say, that during an experience of two years in the field and general hospitals, I never saw either sick or wounded soldiers as favorably situated as they are here. Sometimes I find some who are anxious to get to Washington, but knowing the unsanitary condition of said city, and the worth of pure air, I have in all such cases endeavored to persuade them to be content to remain here, and I have succeeded in almost all instances in convincing them that they are better off here than they would be there.

The work of personal relief, as day after day has passed, has been well done, and if the present facilities but continue, there need be no fears for the future. How much good the liberal, palpable sympathy of the loyal North has accomplished here! Through it we have been enabled to distribute material aid, together with cheering words.

Sir, we "working men," find that we are quite contented, and even happy at our work. The sudden flush of gratitude, the quick, grateful glances of eyes that *will* speak, though the tongue may be silent. We treasure them up. They are not to be found in the *civilized* conventional world.

You have given us home comforts as our aim. We are nearer to that aim than may be imagined. With the exception of the familiar faces and associations, it is generally already attained.

I have seen no State Agent at work, but have met delegates of the Christian Commission when they were holding religious services in the tents.

KANSAS.

Several letters from Mr. Brown, at Leavenworth, tell of great suffering and destitution in his district. Crowds of refugees flock into the neighborhood, and almost all of them are helpless, inefficient, and utter-

ly dependent upon charity. These, in addition to the patients in hospitals, overwhelm him with demands for assistance. Supplies have reached him from Cleveland, Chicago, and St. Louis, and others are on the way. These, Mr. Brown says, "are sent out to the hospitals as soon as transportation can be procured. The want of transportation is the great obstacle in the way of rendering speedy relief to the sick in distant hospitals. I would keep a team moving constantly, but there is now no safety in sending goods without an escort. I improve every opportunity that is safe to forward supplies to the outposts, but I am not able to fill all requisitions. I have another good invoice from Chicago, with a very kind letter—goods not yet arrived. I have one Refugee and Soldiers' Home started—have two very good buildings leased. Freedmen's Department filling up fast."

TESTIMONY OF LIEUT. COL. SUMMERS, MEDICAL INSPECTOR U. S. A.

MEMPHIS, TENN., August 24, 1864.

DR. L. LEWIS COXE, U. S. Sanitary Inspector
for the Valley of the Miss.

DEAR SIR—In reply to your request, asking what my observations had been in my tours of inspection regarding the distribution and use made of the "people's" gifts through the Sanitary Commission, I take pleasure in stating that I have almost always found more or less, and generally a liberal supply of them in the General Hospitals of this city, and in those at Vicksburg and Natchez, as well as the Regimental Hospitals (in the camps) at the two latter places.

With the occasional exception, which occurs in camps, they invariably reach their *proper* destination, and are consumed by those for whom they are intended. I take pleasure in making this statement, for the reason that the impression has been made to a very considerable extent, that the medical officers on duty in General Hospitals get and consume the lion's share of them. I know that this is not the case where I have inspected, for the officers board out in the cities, and the exception is only where the Hospital is isolated and at a distance from such accommodations.

Pardon me for the introduction in this note of an opinion I entertain regarding canned fruits generally. I do not think that they are so healthful or well adapted for the sick as those that have been dried.

The preparation of the latter for table use is very simple, and can almost always be done without difficulty. There is a very great loss in the canned, and not unfrequently the contents are damaged to some extent, which is not discovered by *our army cooks*, and it has a very bad effect on those who eat of it.

The anti-scorbutics have been a special boon. The amount of fresh vegetables, more particularly potatoes, have been the means, together with those furnished by the Commissary Department of the Army, of saving the lives of vast numbers, and keeping up a good sanitary condition of the troops. The ratio of sickness and percentage of mortality has been materially diminished, falling far short of that which took place last year during the corresponding months of March, April, May, June, and July. This is to be ascribed, in some degree, to the officers and men having learned the better how to take care of themselves. * * *

I am Doctor, yours very respectfully,
JNO. E. SUMMERS,
Med. Inspect. U. S. A.

REALLY OLD LINEN.

The New Haven Auxiliary Society writes: "We have a contribution of some antediluvian linen, with the following history. I send it thinking it may be made an item. "The linen sheet made into two, marked I'E, belonged to Jehosaphat and Elizabeth Starr. He was established in business in Guilford, 1732; they were married in 1734. She was daughter of Ruggles, one of the early clergymen of this old town, and the sheet must be 130 years old. Two of these old family treasures descended to Mr. Henry B. Starr. One he gave me a year ago, and a few days since brought me the pair of linen pillow-cases and this old sheet."

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

AT NASHVILLE.

Mr. Root reports, July 30:

At the commencement of the present campaign of the Army of the Cumberland, we had in store at this place, about three thousand barrels of vegetables, consisting of potatoes, kraut, and pickles; also, a large stock of condensed milk, whisky, condensed beef and fruits, besides shirts, drawers, sheets, pillows, and pillow-slips, rags and bandages.

These stores had been accumulated by

request of Gen. Sherman, for the use of the army when the campaign should open. Every facility necessary for the rapid transportation of the goods to the front has been furnished by the Government.

In addition to this stock, then on hand, large supplies have since been continually coming forward from Louisville, at the rate of one hundred tons per week, and have been shipped to Chattanooga as fast as received. There has been no complaint on the subject of transportation, since the army commenced its march. The Government has fully anticipated and provided for the wants of the campaign; three thousand cars are now daily running between Nashville and the front, and army stores of all descriptions and sanitary stores find an easy transit to the scene of conflict and suffering.

In order that the sanitary stores might be distributed where they were most needed, and where they would best answer the ends for which the Commission was instituted, I conferred at the opening of the campaign with the Medical Director, and the Medical Purveyor and the Post Commissary at this place, as to the course best to be pursued. The sick and wounded that had been previously patients in the hospitals at Chattanooga and other points beyond this, were in May transferred to this place, and to hospitals farther North; operating while *in transitu* an increased demand for sanitary supplies here; and this demand was largely increased, as soon as the wounded from the battles of the campaign began to arrive.

A large Corps of Sanitary Agents had gone to the front, in May, and were keeping pace with the progress of the army.

These agents were sending back daily the most urgent requests to hurry forward supplies to them. Under these circumstances, how could all the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers in General Hospital, here and at the front, be met? To this inquiry I gave the most careful attention. The Medical Director, the Medical Purveyor and Post Commissary, advised me that sanitary stores were needed more at the front than at any other place; that all the general hospitals were supplied by Government with everything actually ne-

cessary; that at the front, where the storm of battle was actually raging, exigencies were continually arising, beyond the organized means of the Government to provide for; and that *there*, at or near the field of battle, was the appropriate sphere for the Sanitary Commission to discharge its humane duties of love and mercy.

Dr. Clendenin, the Medical Director, clearly defined to me the duties of Surgeons in charge of hospitals, and pointed out the manner in which they could and should provide with whatever is necessary for their patients *from the Government*; and in connection with the subject, he furnished me with the following written orders, which I deemed of sufficient importance to have printed for the information of our own agents:

OFFICE ASST. MED. DIR., D. C., }
NASHVILLE, JUNE 15, 1864. }

CIRCULAR.

The attention of Medical Officers is respectfully directed to circular No. 5, Surgeon-General's Office, April 13, 1863, viz.:

The Senior Medical Officer of hospitals, regiments, posts, or detached commands, will make their requisitions for medical and hospital supplies upon the Medical Director whom they may be serving.

It is not the design of the Sanitary Commission to perform the duties which belong to the officers of the Medical Department, nor to furnish those medical stores which ordinarily are supplied by this Department, when properly asked for, or when needed.

The supplies of the Sanitary Commission, then, will not be drawn upon by Medical Officers to meet the current expenditures of their hospitals; and Medical Officers who, previous to the issue of this circular, have been in the habit of asking, without the necessity, for these gratuitous issues, are believed to have done so through ignorance of the proper means of obtaining their hospital stores, or prompted by the desire to clear themselves from a responsibility to which they would be held by this Bureau, for culpable negligence in the use and waste of supplies received from the regular purveying officers of the Medical Department.

(Signed,) W. A. HAMMOND,

Surgeon-General.

W. CLENDENIN,

*Surgeon U. S. V., Asst. Med. Dir.,
Department of the Cumberland.*

OFFICE ASST. MED. DIR., }
NASHVILLE, JUNE 15, 1864. }

CIRCULAR.

The following instructions are again furnished for the information of "Surgeons in charge," who are charged with the faithful execution of the same:

All issues of clothing made to patients in hospital, should be noted on the descriptive rolls of the man receiving the clothing.

In cases where no descriptive roll has been furnished by the company commanders, the clothing needed should be issued *at once*, and such issues noted on a partial descriptive roll. This partial roll should be made out by the Surgeon in charge, giving the name, rank, reputed company, regiment, age, height, complexion, color of eyes, hair, and such other facts as may be obtainable at the time, and which would assist in a legal identification of the name.

If a full descriptive roll should be received from the company commander before the man leaves the hospital, all issues made to him should be noted on this roll, and the partial descriptive roll should be destroyed at once.

It has been officially reported to this office, that a number of sick and wounded men have been transferred from hospitals in Nashville to Louisville, Ky., without any other clothing than drawers and shirts. It is hoped, that under no circumstances will "Surgeons in charge" again permit any man to be sent out in such condition. The Government has made liberal provision for issuing clothing to troops, especially to men in hospitals; consequently, there can be no excuse whatever for soldiers of the United States Army being sent out of hospital without clothing, in a half nude state.

(Signed,)

W. CLENDENIN,

*Surgeon U. S. V., Asst. Med. Dir.,
Department of the Cumberland.*

As the work of the Commission is supplemental to that of the Government, we have been governed by these orders, (in the distribution of our stores,) wherever general hospitals have been established, and the Government has had sufficient time to supply them with their full complement of hospital stores.

This has been our general rule, subject to such exceptions as the necessities of the case often required. When Government supplies can be had, and sufficient time afforded to reach them through author-

ized channels, the distribution of sanitary stores is unnecessary. In the transfer of patients from one hospital to another, sufficient time is not always given to supply patients with necessary clothing, through the established army regulations. In such cases the Sanitary Commission comes to the relief of the needy. Individual applications for relief have been always disposed of according to the wants of the applicant, where those other wants cannot properly be relieved.

Confining our distributions in general hospitals to the above order of the Medical Director, we have been enabled to send to the front, a much larger amount of supplies, than otherwise have been done; at the same time, the aid rendered by the Commission here to hospitals, to individual soldiers, to parts of regiments on detached duty, and to regiments guarding the railroad and river, between Nashville and Chattanooga, has been constant and of very considerable magnitude. We have always endeavored to regulate our distributions by the comparative wants and necessities of the different parts of the field to be supplied. I do not know that the work could have been better done than it has been.

For a more particular statement of the relation that the Sanitary Commission bears to general hospitals, I refer you to the communication of Dr. Woodward, drawn up by my request, to accompany this report.

About the time that wounded soldiers began to arrive in considerable numbers from the front, application was made to me by Surgeons and other Government officers, to have special relief, in the form of refreshment, provided for them at Chattanooga Depot, in Nashville, and at Decherd Station, about half-way between Nashville and Chattanooga. I thought it highly proper for the Commission to comply with this request. An agent, with your approbation, was sent to Decherd, with the necessary supplies to establish a "Soldiers' Rest" there; and for several weeks past, all sick and wounded soldiers passing from the front to Nashville, have been supplied at Decherd with coffee, tea, beef soup, lemonade, milk punch, crackers and

bread, and have received such other attention as was necessary.

At first, a large number of the wounded came from the front in box-cars, and when they arrived in Nashville, they frequently had to wait, in an exhausted condition, from one to three hours, before they could be transferred to hospitals. I visited them as they came in, and saw them lying on the bottom of the cars, weary, hungry, thirsty, and suffering from their wounds.

I made arrangements immediately for supplying them with milk punch, cooled with ice, and with soft crackers.

This was refreshing to them, and those that looked on and heard their expressions of satisfaction and gratitude, were often affected to tears. This was a good work; but for the last month hospital cars, furnished with every comfort necessary for wounded men, have been provided for transferring wounded soldiers from the front to Nashville, and the necessity for our supplying them at Chattanooga Depot no longer exists. The "Soldiers' Rest" at Decherd is still in operation, under the care of Dr. Hillman, and from five hundred to a thousand soldiers a week, are there kindly cared for.

I think proper in this communication to call your attention to the great amount of work for soldiers, done at the "Soldiers' Home" in Nashville, under the efficient management of Capt. Brayton.

Hospital visiting has been faithfully attended to by Rev. Mr. Ingraham, and in addition to his other duties, he has officiated as Chaplain on Sunday, in the "Soldiers' Home." I have also myself visited the hospitals as often as a proper attention to my other duties would permit. I have endeavored to keep myself acquainted with their wants, necessities and general condition, and to supply them to the extent of our means and obligation.

The number of patients in them, since the opening of the campaign, has greatly increased. They are much in want of vegetables, which the market here cannot supply, and of rags for the dressing of wounds, which the Government heretofore has not attempted to supply. Rags are not on the supply-table of the Medical Purveyor.

That you may be made acquainted fully

with the statistics and general condition of the hospitals in Nashville, at the present date, I have requested Dr. Woodward to visit them and furnish me with such statistics, and the results of his observation in the same.

This he has done. His great experience as an Army Surgeon, gives additional value to his statements and suggestions. I herewith inclose his communication to me on this subject, as a part of this report.

For further particulars, I refer you to the reports of Mr. Robinson, Mr. Ingraham and Captain Brayton, in their several departments.

DECHERD, TENNESSEE.

Dr. Hillman writes, August 15:

There is probably in no other institution a more gratifying situation than the office I occupy at present, in taking care of the sick and wounded. Having had, for a long time, nothing but "hard tack," the poor, exhausted patient's face smiles over the rich beef soap which is offered to him. The wounded, sun-burnt hero, asking for water to fill his empty canteen, and being told to wait a minute, is astonished at getting milk punch, something to eat, and a fresh dressing for his wounds, in addition to the canteen of water; he will look at you in dumb wonder, but the moistened eye is eloquent where the tongue falters and fails. It need Holmes's pen or Darley's pencil to do justice to the scenes that are common under my eye. Tell that pale man, who has been lingering for a long time with a disease contracted in the service of his country—tell him the best medicine you can administer is found in the word "Home," with all that it suggests of affection, comfort, and repose, and the wan countenance brightens at once, the jolting of the car is no longer felt, the heat of the long day is forgotten, and the hard box-car is pillowed with the sweetest imaginations. There is too much noise and too much bustle at the departure of the train, for many words of farewell from my patients, newly found and as quickly changing, but I cannot forget their faces radiant with a voiceless gratitude.

A few days ago, a train, with but one wounded man on board, stopped at the

station the usual twenty-five minutes, and I was thus allowed to give him undivided attention. He had been badly wounded at the ankle joint by a bomb-shell. I dressed his wound, gave him a pillow to rest his foot on, fed and refreshed him; he was trying to thank me, but the words were choked with tears. After he left, I was surprised to hear that he was a Confederate soldier. Will this man remain a rebel? Will he have a chance of visiting Belle Isle?

Once in a while very amusing incidents happen. There is but one step from the tragic, as well as the sublime, to the ridiculous. I am often obliged to use disinfectants for severe and offensive wounds, and have a solution in a wine bottle, still wearing the attractive, gilded label, "Bordeaux, St. Julien, Medoc." While I was busily engaged the other day with my work, the bottle close at hand, it had proved too strong a temptation to a soldier lying near, and, when my back was turned, he hurriedly gulped down a generous swallow. You can imagine the sneezing, coughing, retching, and thorough disgust which betrayed, at the same time, the sly theft and his fearful disappointment, much to the amusement of all present.

The ice-house is completed. No ice has been received in quantity, but, through the kindness of Dr. Hazen, I get small supplies from his hospital train.

In regard to telegrams I am happy to say that they have been regularly received, save only when interrupted by the thunderstorms along the line through the monntains. But as nurses take turns in watching at night, I have been prepared in all cases of night arrivals.

The number of patients fed and attended to at this station, from August 3d to the 15th, is eleven hundred and eighty-nine. I select from my memorandum the details descriptive of a single day:

August 15.—Train No. 8, in two sections, arrived 2.30 A. M. First section had one hundred and forty-seven patients; fed them, and dressed wounds for eleven privates and two officers. Second section had seventy-five patients; found one Frenchman and thirty-nine Germans. They were glad to be addressed each in his native tongue.

Train No. 5, arrived before time, at 2¼ P. M., with twelve patients; fed them, and gave morphine to one man in great pain.

Train No. 6, arrived at 9¼ P. M.; had twenty-five patients; gave them coffee and milk punch; administered soporifics. Total, two hundred and fifty-nine patients on August 15th.

To Mr. Root I have written for supplies needed here, and expect to receive them soon.

HOSPITAL VISITING.

Mr. Ingraham writes from Nashville, August 6:

The last week has been filled with its continuous round of daily duties, some great, some small. Not a little time has been occupied in answering letters from friends of sick or wounded soldiers. Every mail brings some—each eloquent in the entreaty that the Hospital Visitor will look up the beloved husband or son or brother—see their condition, attend to their wants—see if they can get a sick furlough, or be transferred to some hospital nearer home, and where their friends can meet them. All of these letters require an answer, sometimes two or three letters in reply, besides a great deal of time and labor spent in searching out the case. Let me give an instance:

A few days ago a letter was received requesting information of Hiram McFreeman, who was known to have been brought to Nashville very sick—but a long time had elapsed, no letters to him were answered, and whether he was alive or dead his friends could not learn. They wrote to the Hospital Visitor. He took the letter and went to the office of the Medical Director, where the record of all hospital patients is kept, and began his search over the long pages, scanning every one of the hundreds of names. But no such name appeared. He then went backwards over the list, but page after page was examined until his back and fingers ached, but certainly no such name was there. He looked at the letter again, and there was strong evidence that such a person had been in hospital in Nashville.

What next was to be done but to visit the

hospitals themselves, and look at their books, for sometimes mistakes are made, even at the Medical Director's. So the nearest hospital was visited, and an hour exhausted, but no such name was there. Then a long, hot walk, and the books of another examined, but with as little success. Then another long walk, and a third hospital record investigated, but with like result. Tired out and heated, the thing was given up for that day. Upon the next (two more letters with similar inquiries having come in the interval,) he starts upon a two mile walk, for no ambulance could be had, to the largest hospital.

Here, also, pages of names, reaching weeks and months back, are carefully pored over, but without success. He is about to give it up, when a thought suddenly strikes him. He then begins a search for Hiram M. Foreman, and finds the name, and on inquiry learns that he is the very man he wants, but that his name has been misspelt, and then he learns that the young man has entirely recovered, and that he left the hospital the day before to join his regiment!

This may be considered a rare case, but yet not altogether as uncommon as we could wish. At best, it requires much time to find the parties, investigate their condition, talk with them, see their Surgeons about them, write to their friends, and keep up the interest and communication until they recover or are removed.

With one exception the hospitals are all in good condition. We trust that kindly influences brought to bear upon that will soon make it no longer an exception.

I have heretofore omitted to report what, perhaps, I should have done, viz.: my voluntary services as Chaplain in hospitals. I do not mean the occasional bed-side services which are continually occurring, but those of a more regular character. There are faithful Chaplains here, and some who go beyond their strength. But there are, nevertheless, hospitals which, from some cause, seem to be quite destitute of the regular and constant services of a Chaplain.

All of the hospitals are frequently visited by clerical tract and book distributors, and who occasionally hold religious ser-

vices. But these gentlemen are generally on short vacations from their own parishes in the North; they naturally desire to go over as much ground as possible in the given time, and therefore, any good impression that one or two visits to a hospital may make, is generally lost for want of repetition and following up. Or else the kindly impression of perhaps one excellent and experienced Visitor is driven away by the succession of new faces and voices.

What is needed, in I think the most of our hospitals, is a sufficient number of faithful *resident* Chaplains; gentlemen selected for their experience, wisdom and devotion to the cause. The Chaplain should know personally almost every man in the hospital, or if the hospital be too large, then he should have one or more assistants. He should visit once or twice each day every case inviting peculiar sympathy, for counsel, consolation, and prayer. He should know how to approach men with judgment and discretion, so as not to repel but to draw them; not to shut up their hearts but to open them; not to kill but in every sense to cure.

A good Surgeon knows well the value of such a spiritual assistant. He should also know what kind of religious reading each man should have, and he should have the authority and control over the distribution of it. He should not permit that indiscriminate tract and book distribution, which gives a tract on dancing to a man who has lost his leg, or a hook on "*The Wrath to Come*," to some poor, broken, and contrite heart, that needs binding up with the gentlest hand. In a word, his hospital should be his parish. It would take but a little time for such a man to gain the confidence of his patients, and to have access to their heart of hearts.

Some of such men have visited our hospitals, and have, in barely one conversation, gained the confidence of many who longed for their return. But alas, they were of the *peripatetic* order; they had made a good impression, but were suddenly gone to return no more, and the poor disappointed, discouraged sick man, after listening long in vain for the returning footsteps of that friendly voice, turns his face to the wall, refuses to listen to the announcement of

new voices and faces that flit past, or stop a moment before him, and shuts up his heart in despair.

I will not enter upon the statistics of Chaplaincy, nor the mode of appointment, neither the method of remedy; but having touched upon a *sanitary* desideratum here—"sanitary" in its fullest sense—will go on to report, that in one of these hospitals, where there are five hundred patients, there having been no kind of religious service, I was told, for two months—no one to bury the dead, or administer at the bedside of the dying—at the earnest solicitation of the patients, I volunteered to give them as much of my time as I could spare. This at once involved Sunday services, and as the patients were mostly confined to their beds, a service was required in each ward, there being six in all. This, in addition to a service in the Refugee Barracks, has been kept up for about three months, in addition to occasional week-day visiting. This has, at last, however, proved too much for my strength. And as of late, I have, by request, undertaken regular Sunday services at the Soldiers' Home, the hospital services have been reluctantly given up. On yesterday, however, it being the national fast day, I held services, by special request of the Surgeon in charge, both at the main building and in its branch, having a large and most attentive congregation.

At the Soldiers' Home, I have good and attentive congregations once on each Sunday. There are from forty upwards at each service. On these occasions I use the little "*Soldiers' Prayer Book*," which affords great satisfaction, each man having a book. At the close of the services the men are presented with the book which they have been using. Several hundred have been given them in this way. For quite a number of these and other books, I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. Montgomery Schuyler, D.D., of St. Louis.

For several months past, I have also held a regular Sunday service in the Refugee Barracks of this city, where, also, a Sunday-School has been established and kept up. There, also, I have had frequent burial services, and many an opportunity of a kind and blessed word.

HOSPITALS.

Dr. Woodward reports:

I have the honor to report, that in obedience to your request, I have made an inspection of some of the hospitals in this city, and though time has not allowed an examination of all, enough has been done to show that there is a necessity for aid from the Sanitary Commission.

By an examination of the reports herewith inclosed, you will perceive that vegetables are much needed, and though most of the hospitals have a large hospital fund, it cannot avail to meet this want, for the reason that a sufficient number of vegetables cannot be purchased in this market. Butter, eggs, rags and bromine, are loudly called for.

As you are aware that frequent complaints are made in Northern newspapers, of the misappropriation of the supplies of the Sanitary Commission, my attention has been directed particularly to this matter, and I am convinced that the complaints are groundless. I could find no instance where medical officers live or board at the hospitals, or make use of any sanitary supplies. The officers either board in private families, or have a mess of their own—and the kitchens of the hospitals are for the most part under charge of ladies from the Christian or Sanitary Commissions, and the Surgeons have given me every facility for making the closest inquiries, and feel that the more fully the investigation is made, the more confidence will the people have in their honesty.

The men in the hospital are well cared for, and with the exception of the "professional grumblers," are contented and cheerful.

Blackberry wine and cordial, are highly valued at the hospitals, and a supply would do much good.

Rags and bandages in unlimited quantities are called for—the great numbers of wounded arriving demanding supplies.

Rev. A. L. Payson reports:

My labors have been so varied and disconnected the past month, that it is somewhat difficult for me to send you a regular

report of my immediate labors. Since the colored troops came, until their organization, we have had our hands full. Our labors have been unremitting and arduous. Since their organization they have been put in camp. Means were at once instituted to give them regular instruction, which has been continued, though necessarily with more or less interruption. It is truly astonishing to witness the rapid progress they have made. In some instances, they have learned the alphabet in fifty-five minutes, and in forty-eight hours they have remained in the camp, under the influence instituted, there was every indication that they would have made great improvement.

For their encouragement, special hours were selected for writing letters for them. The efforts expended in their behalf have resulted in great good, and fully establish the fact of the aptness of the colored man to learn to read and write. In carefully visiting the two infantry regiments organized, I found in the 114th (now ordered to Burnside Point,) there were one hundred and eighty-five able to read in the Testament—in the 116th, now in camp here, one hundred and thirty-two. Being deeply interested in the welfare of these men, I have devoted a portion of each day (in connexion with Rev. J. G. Fee, a most devoted man,) to the interests of the colored troops, in laying the foundation for their future advancement in knowledge.

My labors among the refugees have increased the past month. These circumstances have been such as to demand the attention of some one to meet their varied and multiplied wants.

The condition of the camp at the present time is as follows: At the Camp of Distribution there were one hundred and ninety men. An order has been issued calling for all able for field duty. One hundred and sixty have left.

In the convalescent Camp Hospital there are four hundred and twenty-three—fifty-four of these on low diet. The prevailing disease is said to be diarrhea. Of the different States represented in our hospitals Michigan is said to have the ascendancy.

In the General Hospital I give you the number on the different diets in all its branches:

Number on low diet in Gen. Hospital..	153
“ half “ “ ..	81
“ full diet in “ ..	177
“ low “ Measles Ward ..	50
“ half “ “ ..	7
“ full “ “ ..	23
“ in Small-pox branch.....	13

Total.....504

Number of Nurses and Attendants..... 60

Total.....564

There are about two hundred and thirty colored troops included in the above, about equal proportions of them on the different diets.

In the Prison Hospital there are twenty patients—about one half on *low* diet. In the Employees' Hospital seventeen patients—eight on low diet—five on half diet—diarrhea prevails.

The above are entirely dependent for Sanitary Supplies on the Home, except perhaps the General Hospital, which is in part supplied by the Cincinnati Branch. You will see the necessity that a suitable and full supply of stores be kept at this point. For some time past our calls have been very urgent, and for articles absolutely necessary for the comfort of the sick. I regret to say that we have not been able to answer these calls. Our supplies at present are entirely inadequate to meet the demands that will be made. We shall have large bodies of colored troops, and immediately on the appointment of medical officers a Regimental Hospital will be established. They will require more or less Sanitary supplies. The 114th Regiment U. S. Colored Troops that have been ordered to Burnside Point, will need looking after, having left without physician or medicine. The 49th Kentucky will leave, and of course all Medical and Sanitary Stores appertaining to the Regiment will be removed.

Of the last stores received nearly all have been given out to the different hospitals here. Should further calls be made by the hospitals or regiments here, we shall not be prepared to meet them.

The Cumberland Hospital is located about a mile and a half from Nashville, and is on elevated ground. It was originally a field hospital, composed altogether of tents. The intention now is to remove the tents

as fast as possible, and supply their places with more permanent structures. To give some definite idea of this little city of invalids, Mr. Woodruff, the Hospital Steward, furnishes the following statistics of this hospital. The hospital is generally regarded as very faithfully and efficiently managed:

The daily average of patients last month was 2,891; attendants, 190. Total patients and attendants, 3,081. Exclusive of the above attendants are fourteen colored men employed in policing the grounds, and seventy-three colored women employed as cooks, washers, and seamstresses. There are also nine white men and twenty white women employed in the laundry, included in the 190 attendants, employed as clerks, cooks, and helpers, ironers and seamstresses. There are washed and ironed daily, Sundays excepted, 2,500 pieces. We have one of David Parker's patent washers, with wringers attached, which is worked by steam, and will wash 160 pieces every fifteen minutes. This will be ready for use in a short time. We have a fine 18-horse power engine, which saws our wood, works the washers, and supplies the Laundry and "Special Diet Rooms" with hot and cold water.

The following provisions were drawn from the Post Commissary, and consumed in this hospital last month:

6,400 lbs. pork.	2,840 lbs. soap.
4,200 lbs. ham.	2,487 lbs. salt.
60,000 lbs. fresh beef.	75 lbs. black pepper.
2,500 lbs. mutton.	1,224 lbs. butter.
128,500 lbs. flour.	60 lbs. lard.
4,500 lbs. corn meal.	2,596 lbs. dried apples.
1,200 lbs. hominy.	904 lbs. dried peaches.
4,600 lbs. beans.	3,000 lbs. white fish.
2,100 lbs. peas.	3,750 lbs. mackerel.
2,600 lbs. rice.	408 cans tomatoes.
4,160 lbs. coffee.	200 lbs. cheese.
402 lbs. tea.	100 lbs. raisins.
7,800 lbs. brown sugar.	456 lbs. white sugar.
128 gals. vinegar.	703 lbs. butter crackers.
264 gals. molasses.	811 doz. eggs.
10,621 lbs. candles.	

The total cost of the above provisions, at Government prices, was \$20,996 55. In addition to the above there was purchased of private dealers, 6,806 $\frac{1}{4}$ gallons of fresh milk, at 30 cents per gallon; 267 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, 44 chickens, 4 bbls. vinegar, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels potatoes, 2 bushels of onions. Total cost of purchases for the month, \$2,230.85.

The Medical Purveyor has furnished the hospital, during the month, with 23,250 lbs. of the best quality of ice. The Special Diet Rooms are admirably managed by ladies sent out by the U. S. Christian Commission. We now issue 250 gallons of fresh milk daily.

A garden of fourteen acres, attached to the hospital, has furnished, up to July 31, the following vegetables: 150 bbls. lettuce; 4 bbls. mustard for greens; 180 bbls. beets

for greens, and 20 bbls. beets for pickles; 3 bbls. potatoes; 1,781 dozen radishes; 1,200 heads cabbages; 318 dozen cucumbers; 53 bushels string beans; 41 bushels green peas; 12 bushels tomatoes; 120 bushels onions. The garden promises further supplies of potatoes, beets, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, turnips, parsnips, and radishes. The value of the vegetables furnished, at the market price, would be something over \$2,000.

I beg further to state, that since February 1, 1864, there has been manufactured in the hospital 1,800 lbs. tallow candles, and 5,000 gallons soap from the tallow and grease saved from the pork and beef used here; there has also been sold for cash, and turned over to the contingent fund from grease and swill, the amount of \$500.

There have been gathered from the hospital garden of Chattanooga, for the use of the troops, up to the 20th of August, 8,934 bushels of onions, tomatoes, beets, &c., and 7,408 dozen of cucumbers, summer squash, corn, early cabbage, &c.

August 13.

The days of this past week have been filled with their regular round of duties—only not quite so *regular* to order as one might wish, for sometimes the duties seem to come in crowds.

Somebody has written that "two duties cannot conflict," that of two or more seeming duties, claiming the same time, but one is really such, the others not being duties till their turn comes. I think the writer above alluded to would be sometimes puzzled, if he were engaged in this good work, to determine which of many calls is really the duty. One cannot help oftentimes expressing the wish that, in view of all that needs to be done, he could multiply himself into half-a-dozen. And yet a week's work has but little to show. No one can track it—no one describe it. It is nothing but a few cups of cold water given here and there, every day. And even the name of the donor is not known one time in ten.

Here is a conversation with a sick man, the listening to all his complaints and ailments, and sympathizing with and encouraging him. There are a few words of kind, earnest, spiritual comfort and consolation given with a fervent prayer for the man's recovery. In this corner the visitor listens patiently to a boy just beginning to

convalesce, who has not had, in a long time, *the luxury of a good listener*, as he tells how, at "Buzzard's Roost," he was watching his chances, slowly creeping from rock to rock, firing upward as he went, until suddenly he finds himself behind a rock too small to cover him entirely, and he knows that the sharp-shooter before him has discovered it, too, and is watching for the first movement of his head. But he keeps his head down and his legs together until he can't stand it any longer. So he raises his cap above his head the least bit—"crack" goes the other fellow's rifle—up he jumps, takes aim, "plugs" the other chap, and is safe behind another rock in a jiffy. So he fights his battles over, until the visitor, having scarcely spoken a word, rises to go, when the poor fellow expresses himself as much obliged for the visit—"it has done a heap of good—I love to hear you talk"—hopes you will come again soon, and with a smile of real pleasure on his face bids you adieu, while you feel that by that little act of, perhaps, some self-denial to yourself, you have administered a tonic to him better than the purest wine.

Then here again is a sick man, very low, with his wife beside him, God bless her! I have few fears for a man whose wife is beside him in hospital. It is, as the husband said to me, "diet, sleep, and sunshine." A curious combination, but I understood it. His food was sweeter, for she handed it to him; his sleep was *rest* now, for she watched over him, and her presence was sunshine all the time. The poor fellow did not know that he was talking "poetry and moonshine,"—but of this I wish there was a good deal more in our hospitals.

By the way, some of our good friends at the North have sent down occasionally checker boards, puzzles, and games. They are of great service to the convalescing patients, who need something cheery. I wish that they could be constantly supplied with some good, light reading, such as Harper's Magazine.

This is the season of fruits and berries. They are of great service to the men *where they can get them*.

I hope that this year again our good friends at Cleveland will not forget their grapes. They did so much good last year.

But I believe that these ladies do not need to be reminded.

—
ON THE RED RIVER.

Mr. Carpenter writes to Dr. Newberry, from Salem, Mass., August 20:

As I was not able to report from Red River, I will endeavor now to write the main items of my movements. As I notified you in my previous letter, I succeeded in getting my supplies of sanitary stores on board the Sallie List, and was ready to start up Red River on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 10th, but owing to a storm and very high wind we did not get away until Wednesday morning.

Arrived at the mouth of Red River on Sunday, May 15th, and immediately reported to Major-General Canby, who had arrived the day previous, and was on board the gunboat Black Hawk; was informed by him that it was impossible to get to Alexandria, and that all I could do was to await the turn of events; then went aboard hospital steamer Red Rover, found her full of sick and wounded, and entirely destitute of supplies; furnished them with what I had, and some articles that I did not have, I promised to send at the first opportunity.

Dr. J. H. Bixby, Chief Medical Officer on board, very kindly accompanied me through the boat, and explained the various purposes and arrangements with which it is fitted, and I never was more gratified at the perfect order and neatness with which every thing seems to have been provided and arranged for the comfort and well-being of the sick and suffering on board. The Surgeons and officers in charge are very gentlemanly, and appeared to be kind, humane and talented men.

I supplied the sick on gunboats lying there with their most essentially needed articles, and then went to the transports. I went on board each one as they came out of Red River, administering special relief in all cases where it was practical, and administering to all in need as far as possible.

I reported to Col. Voltura, (Medical Inspector,) the amount of stores that I had brought, and that they would be inadequate to the demand, requesting leave to send to New Orleans for an additional

quantity, as I had learned that they had passed down the river, destined for that place. He informed me that he was to send immediately a telegraphic despatch for medical supplies, and would notify the Sanitary Commission also.

I reported to the Adjutant General every day, but could get no permission to pass up the river, as the troops were moving down and he feared we should pass them, and consequently not get our stores to them as soon as to wait where we were. I was very anxious and uneasy, as we were within sound of the guns of the battle all day.

On Thursday I received an invitation to dinner by the officers of the Black Hawk, flagship, and while there, an express came down from Lewisport, requesting sanitary stores to be sent at once. The captain, supposing me to be on board, cast off and proceeded up the river, so that to my great chagrin and annoyance, upon coming out from dinner, I found her out of sight. I went immediately on board the Dunleith, and followed her, arriving at Lewisport but a short time after. Found the agents from New Orleans there, and as they were, of course, better acquainted with the requirements of the different corps, having been on the ground with them, I turned all of the stores over to them. We arrived very opportunely, as their supply was entirely exhausted. Every one was rejoiced to see the stores come in; said "it seemed a perfect god-send almost, they came in just the 'nick of time'—did not see before what they were going to do, or how they were going to get along."

Assisted in the distribution, until they were all given out, and then reported to Gen. A. J. Smith for any volunteer duty that he might have occasion for—was requested by him to remain at the headquarters of the 16th Army Corps, and make myself useful whenever I saw opportunity. Went aboard the Sioux City, and worked all day, assisting the Surgeons, and in caring for the wounded, returning to headquarters at night, when moved down the river to Red River Landing. In the morning ascertained that the wounded coming up the Mississippi were to be transferred to the transport Choteau. I accordingly reported to Dr. Robbins, Surgeon in charge, who re-

quested me to come up with them, and assist them as far as might be.

In the evening the steamer *Laurel Hill* arrived from New Orleans, bringing a good supply of the most needed articles, and some hospital furniture. They came most acceptably, as I found the *Choteau* to be only a transport, and entirely unprovided with hospital furniture or appliances, the hospital steamer having been lost, with very nearly all her medical stores, furniture and medicines, consequently all we had to rely on until we reached Natchez, were the stores so fortunately supplied by the Commission.

As the acting steward was sick, Dr. Robbins requested me to assist him in his duties, and in caring for the comfort and well-being of the men as far as possible under the circumstances. The boat was crowded, through her cabins, on deck and on the guards, with wounded men as thickly as they could be laid, leaving hardly stepping room. The first thing to be done was to have them fed, which we succeeded in doing pretty satisfactorily, with the concentrated beef, fish, potatoes, crackers, farina, butter, milk, sugar, tea, coffee, etc., supplied by the Commission, and these were all we could get until we reached Natchez, as all the commissary stores we had were hams and flour, and which there was no opportunity of cooking, as there was but one stove on board, which was fully occupied in cooking for the crew, and what was indispensable for the wounded. The next, to get their bloody, dirty, ragged, and vermin infested clothing off—get them washed, and good clean Sanitary clothing put on, and it would have given any one with a heart in him, the most sincere gratification to witness the change produced in their looks and appearance, their greatly increased cheer and hopefulness—and to have heard their hearty expressions of thankfulness and gratitude.

As there were no cots or mattresses, we supplied their place as well as might be with the bed sacks, blankets, sheets and comforts, and pillows from the Commission; gave them combs, so they were enabled to hunt and capture a certain game which is altogether too abundant in camp life to be agreeable, and could be dispensed with

without detriment anywhere; gave them handkerchiefs to wipe off their sweat; a good supply of fans; some reading matter, and occasionally a pipe full of tobacco for a quiet smoke, so that in a few hours the aspect of cheerless, dirty misery on the boat, was very much ameliorated.

I then assisted the surgeons as far as possible, in operating, examining, and dressing wounds, and in giving lemonade, ice-water or stimulants, as needed. The Surgeons, Drs. Robbins and Wood, were very kind, humane men, and laboring incessantly and without many of the most needed appliances, became completely exhausted and worn out, and the nurses being taken from the different regiments in the emergency, were mostly unacquainted with the duties required, making the service very irksome and wearing.

Upon reaching Vicksburg, Dr. Roberts was transferred and Dr. Sanborn placed in charge, who proceeded at once to make requisitions for the medical and hospital stores needed, and as the steamer was to take on wood during the night, I remained on shore and went up to the Sanitary rooms to procure some additional articles of which we were deficient, and a night's sleep and rest, a luxury which I had been deprived of for some time, and through the kind and hospitable attention of Mr. Way and others there, I found myself very much improved and ready for work again.

In the morning, before the supplies were got on board, the hospital steamer *N. W. Thomas*, in charge of Dr. Harris, fortunately arrived, and it was decided to transfer as many of the worst cases as could be accommodated, to that boat, leaving the rest in hospital at Vicksburg, Drs. Sanborn and Wood accompanying them still, on that boat. Finding Mr. Edgerly (an agent of the U. S. Sanitary Commission from New Orleans) on board, I turned over the sanitary stores to his charge, and at Dr. Harris's urgent request, continued in the same duties I had been filling. The next day Mr. Edgerly was taken sick, and upon our arrival at Memphis, we were obliged to leave him there. I was very sorry, as we were much in need of efficient help, the boat being loaded to her utmost capacity with very badly wounded men.

They required constant attention, and being but illy supplied with nurses, made it very laborious and exhausting, for it was impossible to rest with men in such condition.

It was very pleasant and gratifying to see their countenances brighten and the look of languor and hopelessness disappear for a time as one carried them great pailsful of delicious ice cold lemonade or milk punches, or hot coffee, as they required, and to hear their expressions of thankfulness and gratitude. Great strong men, or those who were so, previous to their sufferings, would cry like children at some unwonted attention or kindness. Such expressions as "God bless the Sanitary;" "this is a bully good thing, isn't it?" "ain't this great, boys?" "what should we have done if it hadn't been for the Sanitary?" "thank God for the help which always hits us in the right time?" "Hurrah for the Sanitary Commission," &c., &c., were constantly heard on all sides.

One poor fellow from Iowa, suffering from an amputated leg and broken thigh, said "he lived away back, and had never heard much about the Sanitary Commission; did not know much about what it meant, (but, with tears in his eyes,) I've seen and felt what it means now." Another, an officer, from Illinois, said: "I've said and always thought the Sanitary Commission was a *humbug*, but if I ever say or think that again, it will be when I am out of my senses." Another, wounded by a shot through the lungs, said: "I always told the folks at home the Sanitary Commission didn't amount to anything, and did not do us any good, for we never got anything from it, but now I know the reason, it is because I was not in a situation to receive it, and did not need it; but if it had not been for the Sanitary Commission I would not now be alive to tell it." Another with an arm amputated at the shoulder, said: "It is almost worth being wounded to know how much they think of and are trying to do for us at home." Another one, who was shot through the body, after being washed, fed, getting on clean clothes, and a pipe full of tobacco to smoke, said: "I'm all right now, and when I get this *hole* grewed up I'll pitch in and give them fits again."

I might multiply instances indefinitely, but these are enough to show the feeling manifested. How much good a few cheering, hopeful words would do, could be seen in their brightened eyes and happy countenances at any time, and to sit down and talk awhile with them about home, friends, and the hopes of the future, relieved very much the dragging, weary hours of suffering. Reading matter was also in great request and very useful.

I remained on duty, although quite sick myself, until I saw the last one comfortably on his cot in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks, and then was obliged to succumb. Of my being left in hospital at St. Louis, and subsequent movements, I have advised you in previous letters.

I do not intend this as a report, which should have been forwarded immediately upon my return, but I was unable to do so, but merely to give you a brief summary of my doings from my last report.

Enclosed please find list of names of those who died on the passage. The effects of Thomas Harbison, private Co. H, 24th Indiana, which were turned over to me, I left with Mr. Way, at Memphis, to be forwarded to his friends. The facts in each case for the use of Hospital Directory, are stated as far as practicable, or as they could be ascertained.

I am still at Salem, Mass., and I think am deriving great benefit from a change of scene, the invigorating salt breeze, sea bathing, rest, &c., and the medical treatment I am taking, I hope, will soon fit me for duty again as usual.

VALUE OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Annexed is an extract from a letter of H. H. Beebe, Chief Clerk of the Hospital Directory, which illustrates its value as the agency where information is gathered, which is not elsewhere secured:

The foreign letter which you handed me last evening was an inquiry for information, from John Phillips, of South Wales, Great Britain, regarding Lieut. William B. Phillips, Adjutant of the 2d Pennsylvania Prov. Artillery. A great deal of anxiety was expressed, as he had not been heard from since the 21st of June. It gives me pleasure to state that I was enabled to reply to this letter at once, deriving my information from a very unusual channel, taking

all the coincidences into consideration; and the circumstances being so peculiar, the information so reliable, and the usefulness of the Hospital Directory so well proven, I desire to relate the matter to you, that you may enjoy the pleasure also of seeing "the good we do."

I was enabled to write Mr. Phillips that in the assault on Petersburg, Va., July 30th, Adjutant William B. Phillips, of 2d Pennsylvania Prov. Artillery, was taken prisoner, in company with Captains Norris and Millard, and Lieut. Kellow, of the same regiment.

Mrs. Norris had inquired at this office on three or four different occasions for information of her husband, but we could give her none. She came here only three or four days since and stated that she had received a letter from her husband, who was a prisoner of war at Petersburg, Va., and well. The letter came by flag-of-truce. It mentioned the other officers alluded to, and Mrs. N. had brought the letter here to ask me to record this information on our books, they having been reported as *killed*. The record was taken, and this inquiry received last night was answered from that record. I should also add that the same Adjutant Phillips was inquired for in a letter received from an intelligent lady at Hyde Park, Pa., only yesterday, and immediately answered.

A RAINY DAY IN CAMP.

[The following lines are from the pen of the late MRS. ROBERT S. HOWLAND, and have been already widely circulated through other channels, but as we have already published most of her other poems, we think the appearance of this also will be welcome to most readers of the BULLETIN.]

It's a cheerless, lonesome evening,
When the soaking, sodden ground
Will not echo to the footfall
Of the sentinel's dull round.

God's blue star-spangled banner
To-night is not unfurled;
Surely *He* has not deserted
This weary, warring world.

I peer into the darkness,
And the crowding fancies come;
The night wind, blowing northward,
Carries all my heart toward home.

For I listed in this army
Not exactly to my mind;
But my country called for helpers,
And I couldn't stay behind.

So, I've had a sight of drilling,
And have roughed it many ways,
And Death has nearly had me;
Yet I think the service pays.

It's a blessed sort of feeling—
Whether you live or die—
You helped your country in her need,
And fought right loyally.

But I can't help thinking sometimes,
When a wet day's leisure comes,
And I hear the old home voices
Talking louder than the drums—
And the far familiar faces
Peep in at my tent door,
And the little children's footsteps
Go pit-pat on the floor—

I can't help thinking, somehow,
Of all the parson roads
About that other soldier life
Which every true man leads.
And wife, soft-hearted creature,
Seems a-saying in my ear,
"I'd rather have you in those ranks
Than to see you brigadier."

I call myself a brave one,
But in my heart I lie!
For my country, and her honor,
I am fiercely free to die;
But when the Lord, who bought me,
Asks for my service here,
To "fight the good fight" faithfully,
I'm skulking in the rear.

And yet I know this Captain
All love and care to be:
He would never get impatient
With a raw recruit like me.

And I know he'd not forget me;
When the day of peace appears,
I should share with him the victory
Of all his volunteers.

And it's kind of cheerful, thinking,
Beside the dull tent-fire,
About that big promotion,
When he says, "Come up higher."

And though it's dismal—rainy—
Even now, with thoughts of him,
Camp life looks extra cheery,
And death a deal less grim.

For I seem to see him waiting,
Where a gathered heaven greets
A great, victorious army,
Marching up the golden streets.

And I hear him read the roll-call,
And my heart is all a-flame,
When the dear, recording angel
Writes down my happy name!

But my fire is dead white ashes,
And the tent is chilling cold,
And I'm playing win the battle,
When I've never been enrolled!

WORDS OF CHEER.

We take the following extract from a letter recently received by the Woman's Central Association of Relief, dated Conway, Mass., August 2, 1864:

"In a former barrel some of our ladies wrote notes and put them into the socks, etc. Many have received answers. This has contributed much to the interest here in our armies. Some letters were from the hospitals, some from the navy, some from the field, near Petersburg, and in nearly all,

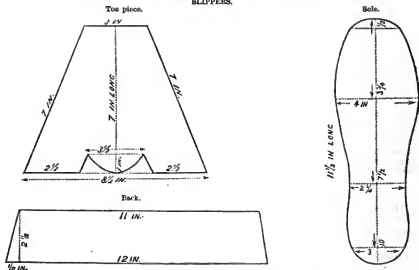
a 'God bless the Sanitary Commission.' One letter, in which our people were greatly interested, was from an Assistant Surgeon of the 25th New York Cavalry.

"In this barrel is a pair of socks knit by a lady who is ninety-seven years old on the 24th of this month. She is ready and anxious to do all she can.

"We have just had a number of pieces of wool given us, which our Society will color, spin and knit for the soldiers. They make much better socks than yarn we purchase."

PATTERNS FOR HOSPITAL CLOTHING.—No. 3.

SLIPPERS.



REQUIRED FOR A PAIR OF SLIPPERS.

5 1/2 yards common woolen carpet binding.
2 1/2 knots strong linen thread.

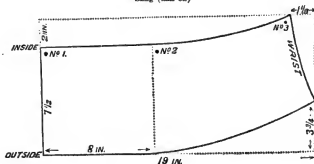
DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING SLIPPERS.

Slippers should be made of carpeting or stont

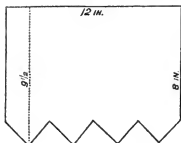
woolen cloth and lined with cotton or cotton flannel.

Each part should be bound and the three parts sewed together by the binding.

A stiff sole of pasteboard or sole leather should be inserted between the lining and outside.

ARM SLING.
Sling (half of.)

RATION BAG.



DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING SLINGS.

Slings may be made of calico or any other strong material.

The two halves should be sewed together only on the outer side and the edges hemmed.

Strings should be placed on both halves, as per dots in diagram. (Six strings.)

Those at No. 1 are of unequal length, one being 27 inches long, the other 11 inches. The four other strings are 27 inches long.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING RATION BAGS.

Ration Bags should be made of enamelled cloth. The four points should be sewed together so as to form a flat bottom and the side sewed up to make it into a bag. The top should be bound with cotton and tape strings run in.

THE SANITARY MOVEMENT IN ITALY.

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE WOUNDED IN TIME OF WAR.

The following paper on this important subject, was read at the meeting of the Pontanian Academy on the 27th of December, 1863, by Dr. Palasciano, Resident Member:

GENTLEMEN—Too memorable for us all was the assembly of the 20th of January, 1861, at which the Academy resolved to celebrate the events which gained for us our political regeneration, for me to suppose that the proposition I had the honor of making can be effaced from your heart. I mean that we should undertake to promote the amelioration of the fate of the wounded in battle, and to favor and diffuse the tendency of saving them from mutilation and hastening their recovery, certain that we could not offer a more acceptable homage to the King and Gen. Garibaldi, our liberator.

You did not disdain accepting my offer of a prize for a competition on the treatment of gunshot wounds, and vied with each other in exertions to gain this aim as soon as possible.

But the want of a work which could deserve the prize, the willingness with which the medical profession answered my appeal, the number and importance of the memoirs which reached us within the very limited time conceded to us, and the interviews which the professors of natural sciences were obliged to grant to each individually, showed that this theme had revealed one of the most urgent requisites of our era, a provision very lately and unfortunately verified in the person of our wounded liberator himself.

It was then, at the meeting of the 28th April, 1861, that on proposing a new competition on the same subject, accompanied by explanations and facilitations, I arrived at this conclusion—that the means proper for preventing mutilation, and saving the limbs broken by fire-arms, are not so entirely in the power of the surgeon as they are in that of his science; and by the history of surgery, and the statistics of gunshot wounds, I proved clearly, that when very few fire-arms were employed, and with no precision, that when a great quantity of baggage was re-

quired, and the marches were slow, the necessity of amputation was less required in the armies.

Afterwards the perfection of arms, the additional number of troops, generated impetuosity, rashness, and carelessness, and increased beyond measure the cases of amputations and deaths; whilst where there is method and discipline amputations may not only be nearly abolished, but the Surgeon-General Bilguer, in a remarkable work published by him at Berlin in 1761, reckoned 6,618 wounded in various wars, who were treated without amputation, and from that number 653 died, 213 invalided, 193 veterans, and 5,557 were cured. Since the invention of ambulance volanti, (flying ambulances,) in the early part of the present century, the greatest number of amputated who died has been 51 per cent. In the naval engagements of Aboukir, Brest, New Orleans, and Navarino, the deaths after amputation never exceeded 24 per cent.; whereas, in the wars of late years, in the Crimea and in Italy, the number of deaths among the amputated reached as far as 77 per cent.

On examining all the causes of the enormous disparity of the results obtained by the surgeons of the above epochs, I found the two following singularly prevalent: the much longer and more rapid mode of conveyance to which the wounded were subjected during the comparatively short recent wars, and the crowded state in the ambulances and hospitals, on account of the more powerful engines of destruction which are now used. From this I thought, that if it should be desirable to put a limit to the great proportion of deaths succeeding amputations, it will be necessary to operate and dress the wounds of the sufferers in the greatest proximity to the battle-field itself, in villages, country houses, barracks, hovels, and other like places of shelter, and be able to leave them there till the beginning of the period of cicatrization. If this is not done, I said, it is to be feared that the progress of the exterminating power of war will increase so far, that for the sick and wounded soldier no other remedy will be found than that which inflexible logic was forced to demand for the plague-stricken at Gialfa. It appeared impossible and exaggerated, yet we have heard this year that in unfortunate Poland the wounded are buried alive in one common grave with

the dead! Horrid atrocity, to which I have no reason to give faith.

Therefore, the necessity of perfect quietude, pure air, and more prompt assistance to the wounded for the amelioration of their state being acknowledged, I entreated every government to come to the aid of medical science, which alone cannot prevent the transfer of the wounded, nor provide the means required for their being assisted near the battle-field. It would be necessary, I stated, that the contending powers in their declaration of war should reciprocally acknowledge the principle of "neutrality of the soldiers severely wounded or sick, during the whole time of their cure," and that they should respectively adopt the "unlimited increase of the medical staff during the whole time of the war."

This, my first discourse "On the neutrality of the wounded in time of war," was sent to Paris by the French chargé d'affaires at Naples, on the same day of its reading, and no doubt our Government received it at the same time as the academical report to the Minister of Public Instruction. But whilst Governments meditate, or at least one must think so, public opinion does not remain inactive. On the 10th of June, 1861, Arrivals published in Paris, a "Notizia industriale sul perfezionamento delle Ambulanze Volanti,"* by which he claimed the inviolability of military doctors, assistants, and "ambulances." To these demands the eloquent Borel gave his support, by an article in the *Sicte* of the 1st of August, 1861.

For this reason, in my second discourse, of December the 29th, 1861, on the same subject, in which I informed you of other people's opinion, and discussed the measures that appeared to me erroneous or imperfect, I gave you ampler explanations of my idea on the neutrality of the wounded, and particularly sought the means of effectuating it.

At that period an international congress seemed imminent, on account of the Anglo-American version of the affair of the *St. Jacinto*, which was precisely to have had for its object the determination of the rights and obligations of neutrals during the war, and I thought that if the principle of neutrality of the wounded in battle should be adopted, either by means of a stipulation in a congress, or by a mutual private agreement between the contending powers in the act of the intimation of war, its effectuation would be most easily achieved.

For this, it would be sufficient that the contending armies should bind themselves—1st. To make a reciprocal restitution of all the wounded prisoners immediately after each battle. 2. That the wounds should be dressed on the battle-field itself, by the personal medical staff of each party, when the patient could not well undergo an immediate removal with impunity. 3. That the medical staff in proportion to the number of wounded men left for treatment on the enemy's territory, should be allowed to pass with a safe conduct and escort, remain as long as necessary, and afterwards should be given up during an armistice to the outposts or frontiers of the enemy. 4. That all the food, lodging, and medicaments required on the ter-

ritory of the enemy should be provided by the commissariat of the place, against a receipt from the acting surgeon, to be repaid after the war. 5. That from besieged places, besides the same reciprocal surrender of the wounded, the besieged ought to be allowed to send forth their own wounded, provided a neutral State should consent to receive them, or should the besiegers generously offer them an asylum.

Now that the potentates are to assemble "sans système préconçu, sans ambition exclusive, animés par la seule pensée d'établir un ordre de choses fondé désormais sur l'intérêt bien compris des souverains et des peuples," as the Emperor Napoleon said on the 5th of November, what greater interest can a citizen feel than in the act of mercy which causes him to sacrifice himself for the welfare of his fellow-men? However, together with the "Manual of Military Surgery," published and diffused by you after the above-mentioned discourse, in January, 1862, appeared the two discourses on the neutrality of the wounded, which were reproduced about the same period in the "Imparziale di Florence," and whilst medical science received such an impulse that in less than two years we now possess, besides the above manual, "Cenni sulla cura delle ferite d'armi da fuoco del Baroffio," (Torino, 1862), the work of de Sanctis, which has been justly confuted and disproved in your report, "La Guida Teorica Pratica del Medico Militare in Campagna, del Cortese," (Torino, 1862,) and "Le Traité de Chirurgie d'Armée," de Legonnest, (Paris, 1863,) the ideas respecting the neutrality of the wounded, and of an unlimited addition to the medical staff in time of war having become known in Geneva, as also the portion of the prize offered to Appia, it gained immense favor in that city. Its staunchest upholder and propagator, Mr. Henry Dunant, an eye-witness of the sanguinary episodes of the battle of Solferino, during which he volunteered his services as assistant on the wounded, has availed himself of the narration of this battle to interest public opinion, the press, and the Society of Public Utility in Switzerland in favor of the amelioration of the state of the wounded, and especially of founding relieving committees for sending volunteer assistants on the field of battle, such as those who followed the army of our liberator in 1800. Although he had not the right of priority which is attributed to him by Savestre, in the *Opinions Nationales* of the 10th of November, 1863, because his work, "Un Souvenir de Solferino," was printed at Geneva in 1862; and a note, (page 61,) contains the declaration that these records were collected more than three years after having taken place.*

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the progress made by our humanitarian ideas is in part due to his exertions. A commission appointed by the Genèvese Society of Public Utility, and composed of General Dufour, M. Moynier, Drs. Manno and Appia, with Dunant, as Secretary, was charged with presenting to the International Congress of Statistics, assembled at Berlin, in September last, a report on the formation of permanent committees of relief for the

* Industrial notes on the perfection of ambulances.

* Comme ce n'est qu'après plus de trois ans que je me suis décidé à rassembler des souvenirs p. nibles que je n'avais pas eu l'intention de livrer à l'impression, &c.

wounded soldiers in time of war. This proposition was also supported by the Vaudois Society of Public Utility, by the Neuchâtel Society for the Progress of Social Sciences, and the Congress of Berlin decreed that an international conference should take place at Geneva, on the 26th of October, in order to inquire into the means of supplying the deficiency of the sanitary service of marching armies. This conference was presided over by Gen Dufour, and represented by many nations, who sent their delegates, viz:—Austria, Dr. Unger, Chief Medical Officer of the Army; Baden, Dr. Steiner, Chief Medical Officer; Bavaria, Dr. Dampierre, Chief Medical Officer of the Royal Artillery; Spain, Major Landa, Staff Surgeon, Dr. Prével, of the Imperial Guard, and Dr. Boadier, Chief Medical Man; England, Dr. Rutherford, Inspector-General of the Hospitals, and Mackenzie, Consul at Geneva; Hanover, Oelker; Hesse, Brodtrick, Staff Surgeon; Italy, G. Campello, Consul at Geneva; the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Prince Henry of Reuss, Delegate of Prince Charles of Prussia, himself Grand Master of the Order; the Low Countries, Busting, Staff Surgeon of the Grenadiers and Chasseur of the Guards, and Captain Van de Velde, ex-Officer of Marine; Prussia, Dr. Hoxscalle, M.D., Councillor of Medical Staff, and Dr. Loeffler, Court Physician; Russia, Captain Kirelew, Field Adjutant of the Grand Duke Constantine, and Iosakoff, Librarian to the Grand Duchess Eleanor Paolana; Saxony, Gunther, Head Physician of the Army; Sweden, Dr. Henry Skoeldberg, Inspector of the Medical Staff, and Dr. Edling; Wurtemberg, Drs. Hahn and Wagner; Switzerland, Dr. Lehman, Head of the Medical Staff of the Federal Army, and Dr. Brieré, of the Medical Staff of Division.

The conference assembled during four consecutive days, and issued the following resolutions: 1. That in every country a committee should be formed for the purpose of contributing by all possible means, to the medical service of the troops in time of war. The committee shall form itself in whatever way it shall think most useful and convenient. 2. Each committee must put itself in relation with the government it belongs to, so that any offer of service may be acceptable when necessary. 3. Unlimited sections can form themselves to aid the committee to which belongs the general direction. 4. In time of peace the committees and sections shall occupy themselves in seeking the means of becoming really useful in time of war, and especially in preparing material support of every species, and endeavoring to form and qualify volunteer assistants. 5. In case of war the committees of the hostile nations shall, to the extent of their means, provide succors for their respective army, and especially qualify and practice the volunteer assistants, and with the concurrence of the military authorities, settle the locality to receive the wounded. They may solicit the concurrence of the committees belonging to neutral nations. 6. At the request or acquiescence of military authority, the committees can send the volunteer assistants under the direction of the military chiefs, to the seat of war. 7. The volunteer assistants destined to follow armies must be furnished with every provision required for their maintenance by their respective committees.

8. They are to wear in every country, as a distinctive sign of uniform, a white leather cuff, with a red cross. 9. The committees and sections of different countries may meet in international congresses, to communicate to each other their experience, and concert on the resolutions to be taken for the interest of the cause. 10. The exchange of communications between the committees of different nations is to be accomplished provisionally by the medium of the committee of Geneva.

Independently of the above resolutions, the conference issued the following votes:—A. That the government should grant their chief protection to the relieving committees which are being formed, and facilitate as far as possible the accomplishment of their intentions. B. That the neutralization be proclaimed in time of war by the hostile nations respecting "le ambulance" and hospitals, and that it be also granted in the most distinct manner to the staff of medical officers, to the volunteer assistants, to the inhabitants of the country who may go to succor the wounded, as well as to the wounded themselves. C. That a distinctive device be allowed to the medical staff of every army, or at least to those of the army they belong to, and that a particular identical flag should be adopted in every country for the ambulances and hospitals.

This is neither the time nor place wherein to discuss the propriety of the determination taken by the committee of Geneva, and far less its application to permanent armies. It is sufficient for us that the international conference meeting at Geneva should have adopted our principle of neutrality in favor of the wounded in battle, and the unlimited increase of the medical staff in time of war.

That the neutrality should be proclaimed by the hostile parties in time of war, rather than by a congress such as that of Paris, was unimportant to us; that during war there should be a penalty of medical men, rather than of volunteer assistants, is a subject not worth investigating, provided no condition or limit is put to the increase of the medical staff.

I do not know, if the convoked congress of Paris will take place, if in what concerns the welfare of the people will be comprised the neutrality of the wounded in battle, nor if Italy, who has the priority of the idea, will have ministers who aspire at the honor of being initiated in so humanitarian a principle. But whatever may result from the above suppositions, we shall never cease to require the greatest perseverance in the attainment of our aim, and to co-operate, as far as we possibly can, and with our utmost exertions, to secure the amelioration of the position of the wounded in battle.

Most of the therapeutic principles which predominate in the "Manuale di Chirurgia Militare" published by you, and which tend to spare the mutilation and life of the wounded, have been adopted by two eminent writers, Legonest and Cortese, whose works appeared since the publication of your "Manual."

Nevertheless, Legonest acknowledges that in the Crimea gunshot fractures of the thigh, treated with the preservation of that limb, were five times more successfully cured than those whose thigh was amputated on account of severe wounds ("lesione traumatica") in the lower

limb or leg, and when he treats of the therapeutic principle, he concludes by saying — "dans de bonnes conditions, c'est à dire, dans les cas de fractures simples, sans perte de substance osseuse étendue, lorsque le blessé ne doit pas être transporté, et qu'il est placé dans un lieu salubre et pourvu de toutes les ressources matérielles et chirurgicales, l'amputation peut être écartée; dans les conditions opposées, l'amputation doit être pratiquée." French medical men know now that for want of material and surgical resources, and from the necessity of removing the wounded, they are forced, with their own hands, to sacrifice one quarter at least of their amputated of the thigh. Some day they may refuse to lend themselves to so cruel a necessity, and claim or enforce conditions to avoid it.

Dr. Cortese, who professes therapeutic principles of military surgery far more conservative than Legouest's, issues the following sentence: "For the lower limbs, besides the length of time required for the operation of resection, (risegamento,) a quiet position is so necessary that it is incompatible with a forcible removal. If the improvements that are to be introduced in the science of surgery can be obtained so far as to free it from the obstacles which are an impediment to the surgical operations in the ambulance, it is evident that resections will soon have the preference over amputations. The preservation of the limb by the hoped for method has not had hitherto the happy results which in my opinion will be obtained more amply hereafter. Many other impediments have hitherto prevented its beneficial influence besides those which concern conservative operations. Of these may be enumerated the following:—1. The excessive accumulation of wounded in the hospital wards, by which the air becomes tainted and generates putrefaction. Among the many human infirmities, none require more imperiously that the air should be pure, and often renovated, than those in rooms where a great number of wounds of that kind require long time for suppuration. After a sanguinary war, and still more, during a long contested battle, it is difficult to find sufficient space to supply these deficiencies. 2. The want of well-prepared apparatuses to insure the perfect steadiness of the limb, even when undergoing a daily dressing. 3. The deficiency of intelligent and constant surgical assistants, who, among the numerous duties required of them, could devote to each peculiar case the diligent and constant medications it may require."

The learned Signor Cortese is inspector of health in the Italian army, and his fearful revelations will certainly not have been published without his having often appealed in vain to obtain from our government the necessary requisites.

It is now the duty of the Italian people to take note of these revelations, and should war break out some further sacrifices must be made, and not allow their defenders to be mutilated for want of a few lives, the cost of a set of well-prepared apparatuses, and persons able to the use of them. As to medical men, if in the heart of many there still remains any doubt or uncertainty which the aphorisms of our manual are intended to remove respecting the treatment

of gunshot wounds, it will be easier to come to an understanding on the subject by a serious and peaceful discussion when we are better prepared for the day of trial.

STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE
6TH MARCH, 1864.

In addition to my discourse on the 13th of December "Il Congresso e l'Italia," respecting the neutrality of the wounded in time of war, I have the honor of submitting to you the following remarks, which will show you the rapid progress obtained by the humanitarian principle of the neutrality of the wounded soldiers, which you so warmly approved of in this hall the first day it was proclaimed, 28th of April, 1861. The Society of Public Utility in Geneva, after the international congress of which I informed you, sent to all the European states an official circular containing the following inquiries:

1. Is government disposed to grant its high protection to the committee of relief for the wounded which is being formed in its own country, in consequence of the resolutions of the conference of Geneva, and to promote as far as possible the fulfilment of its mission?
2. Would government adhere to an international convention, having for its aims (A) the neutrality in time of war of the "ambulance," and military hospitals of the medical staff, of the volunteer assistants presented by the committee of relief of the inhabitants of the place who might be going to succor the wounded, and of the military wounded themselves? (B) The adoption of an uniform or a distinctive sign common to the staff belonging to the sanitary service, and of a particular flag for the "ambulance" and hospitals? Should this last proposition be accepted, would there be any objection to the adopting for all the leather cuff and the white flag with a red cross? Many governments have already answered officially. At the entreaties of Dr. Lehmann, the Swiss Federal Council authorized the military department to meet the wishes above mentioned, on condition that the states on the confines of Switzerland would adhere likewise to the international convention.

Then followed the adhesions of Wurtemberg, of Russia, France, and Denmark. In Stockholm, under the superintendence of Dr. Hahn, an important society has been instituted, with an auxiliary disputation of ladies belonging to the high nobility of Wurtemberg, proclamations and appeals have been issued all over the country.

In Prussia, a large central committee has been formed by the Prince Henry XIII., of Renss, and by the private counsellor Housselle, both deputies of Prussia to the Congress of Geneva. In this committee, next to Prince Radziwill, Count Arnim, Count Stolberg-Vernierode, Chanceller of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, stand the librarian Wagner, the Israelite banker Mendelssohn, the protestant and catholic clergymen. . . . In Prussia only they have not been very diligent in constituting such a committee, because the minister of Roon, on account of the insufficiency of Prussian deaconesses, has been obliged to have recourse to the superior in chief of the sisterhood of St. Carlo, at Nancy (Meurthe,) and request

ber to send to Schleswig sisters disposed to attend on the Prussian catholic sick and wounded, and directly eighteen sisters started from Treves for the seat of war. King William, of Prussia, has expressed many times his strong sympathy for this pious undertaking, to which he has granted his most powerful protection. He professes the principle of neutrality for the wounded, and has no doubt it will be generally admitted.

In France, the army warmly approves the principle of neutrality, and the Emperor Napoleon wrote to Dunant to assure him of his wish to contribute to this mission by promoting the formation of the French committee. He declares publicly his approval of the object of the conference, and of the efforts made to insure its success; allows his sympathies to be made known, and orders the Minister of War to authorize some of the chief officers to take part in the committee instituted in Paris by Dunant.

By a despatch from Copenhagen, dated the 28th January, 1864, the Minister of War of Denmark has informed the committee of Geneva of the official adhesion of his country to the votes of the conference. In Spain, the Prince D. Sebastian has undertaken to sustain with vigor the neutrality and the improvement of the condition of the wounded. In Italy (says the *Journal of Geneva* of the 20th February, 1864,) a patriotic appeal in favor of the international society has been largely diffused, by the care of Signor Guido Corsini, secretary of the Dantean commission; a committee has been instituted in Florence, and the eldest son of the king, Prince Umberto, has declared that he would promote and protect all societies formed in this country towards this pious work.

You know that in Italy more than this has been done, and the press of Geneva is not ignorant of it, for in its journal of the 26th December, 1863, it claims for Naples the priority of the idea of the neutrality of the wounded, which it says it enunciated in 1861, "dans une brochure connue à Genève, puis qu'elle avait donné lieu à un concours, où des Genevois avaient concouru."

Justice and logic, after this, ought to have claimed, as a symbol of the neutrality, a white cross on a red ground, instead of a red cross on a white ground. But this must be decided by our governing powers, and we have no right to judge them before the work is begun. It is undeniable, however, that the activity of Dunant, and of the committee of Geneva, in their efforts to spread the adopted principle, deserve great praise, and we think that the periodical press, particularly the *Giornale di Ginevra*, deserves some likewise; which, to convince the unbelievers of the possibility of effectuating the principle of the neutrality of the wounded, recalls the following historical facts:

In 1743, in the war of the succession of Austria, Marshal de Noailles, commanding the French army, concluded a treaty on this subject, in Aschaffembourg, with Count Stair, commander of the English army, and these generals engaged reciprocally to respect and protect the hospitals, which was scrupulously done during the war. On the 6th of February, 1759, at Ecluse, in Flanders, a similar treaty, containing the same identical details, was entered into by the Marquis du Barrail for the King of

France, and Sir Henry Seymour Conway for the King of England.

The treaty of the 7th of September, 1763, between Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, and France, which was punctually adhered to on both sides, entailed the duty of taking great care of the sick and wounded, and not to take prisoners either clergymen, doctors, surgeons, apothecaries, nurses, assistants, or any other party attached to hospital service.

In 1800, General Moreau, commander of the French army, proposed a similar treaty to the Austrian general, Kray, who refused to accept it, and thus during sixty-four years, through the interference of the upholders of divine right, justice and humanity has been silenced, while we think ourselves on the road of progress and civilization.

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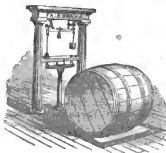
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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 1, 1864.

No. 23.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN THE SHENANDOAH.

The Sanitary Commission has long made Harper's Ferry a centre of operations. Though the late important battle of the Opequan was unannounced, Col. Muhlebach, in charge of the Commission's work at that point and vicinity, including Cumberland, Martinsburg, and Winchester, Va., was promptly on the field of battle with his corps of assistants and stores, which were most welcome to the men and the Medical Department. The store-house at Harper's Ferry was quickly emptied, but the second day after the battle a fresh supply of articles most needed arrived from Baltimore, where they had been stored in anticipation of such a call. The distance from the Ferry to Winchester, where the wounded were gathered, is thirty-six miles, without rail communication, and the country infested with guerrillas. Supplies were immediately pushed forward in wagons under the protection of a cavalry escort. Thirteen four-horse army wagons are used in this work, with the occasional addition of wagons and ambulances, generously provided by the military authorities. These wagon-trains are run day and night, and thus far without loss. For aid and protection in this difficult part of the work the Commission is greatly indebted to General Stevenson, in command at Harper's Ferry, and Col. Edwards, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, commanding post at Winchester.

On the day of the battle Dr. J. F. Jenkins, the General Secretary, with Mr. F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary, and Mr. John S. Blatchford, of Boston, started for the field, and with Col. Muhlebach they rap-

idly effected a thorough organization of the work, commensurate with an emergency so great. It may be truly said that the Commission has never used its resources with more efficiency and beneficent result than at this time, and the good work daily goes on—thanks to a generous public whose gifts it dispenses.

Agents have been rapidly sent forward, from this city and from Philadelphia, and there is now on the ground a working force of about forty men.

Winchester is well nigh one vast hospital, forty (40) buildings being used for their purpose. Outside the town the new camp hospital, called the Sheridan, is fast organizing, to which the wounded will soon be transferred. In connection with this a Diet Kitchen has been established, by the Commission, and placed under the charge of Miss Harris. The town hospitals have been divided into seven districts, and a portion of the Commission's work in these has been assigned to seven most estimable Union ladies, who will be assisted by others, also residents of the town. Let these patriotic and Christian ladies be remembered! Their kind deeds have gladdened many of our weary and sick and wounded men in other campaigns, and their devotion is limited only by lack of resources.

We add the names of those who are acting as Agents for the Commission:

Mrs. Trippe, Miss Allie Sharp, Miss Hattie Griffith, Miss Sallie Diffenderfer, Miss Martha L. Sidwell, Miss Mattie Shumate, Miss Annie Diffenderfer.

At the hospital of Confederate wounded, in charge of their own surgeons, Mrs. Williams, of Winchester, has been appointed agent, being peculiarly fitted for this difficult position. A certain portion of the stores is consigned to her for distribution. The seriously wounded will be retained in the General Hospital instead of being transported to distant places at the risk of life. For this merciful decision we are indebted to Dr. Brinton, the excellent Medical Director.

The following list will partially indicate the variety and quantities of articles needed at such crises of a campaign, being those forwarded from Baltimore up to September 28, and not including the goods in

store at Harper's Ferry, at the beginning of the battle, which amounted to about five wagon loads. The value is about \$40,000:

2,825 wool shirts.	60 lbs. canned chicken.
3,556 wool drawers.	47 lbs. butter.
4,380 handkerchiefs.	2,023 bottles whisky.
3, 64 1/2 wire wool socks.	600 bottles cherry wine.
500 blankets.	75 galls. pickles.
500 quilts.	250 bot's blackberry brandy.
506 bed sacks.	500 bottles Jamaica ginger.
4,062 cushions.	12 bottles alcohol.
618 pillow ticks.	12 bottles Jamaica rum.
680 pillows.	170 lbs. candles.
1,424 pillow cases.	430 lbs. soap.
1,190 cotton drawers.	1,24 tin cups.
616 cotton shirts.	260 bedspans.
480 pairs slippers.	40 feeding cups.
559 sheets.	240 spit-cups.
1 300 pairs cotton socks.	509 tin plates.
45 pieces mosquito netting.	154 tin basins.
15 pieces oil silk.	104 lanterns.
40 bbls. crackers.	12 doz. candlesticks.
540 lbs. desiccated eggs.	150 headstoves.
900 lbs. roast beef.	12 bed tables.
2,116 lbs. condensed milk.	47,000 envelopes.
1,316 lbs. beef stock.	50 reams note paper.
2,195 lbs. coffee.	179 doz. chewing tobacco.
1,832 lbs. sugar.	179 doz. smoking tobacco.
206 lbs. tea.	10 hds. ice.
304 lbs. peaches.	1,101 pairs crutches.
16 bbls. eggs.	240 pr. shoes.
22 boxes lemons.	25 lbs. sponges.
3,560 lbs. chocolate.	775 towels.
8 bbls. potatoes.	96 lbs. canned tomatoes.
1 bbl. vinegar.	1,000 fans.
157 bbls. dried apples.	200 lbs. malsena.
370 lbs. corn starch.	5 gals. tamarinds.
364 lbs. farina.	
paids, spoons, knives and forks, brooms, washboards, washdubs, baskets, chairs, tacks, hatchets, axes, saws, hammers, corkscrews, can-openers, lamps, kettles, gloves, oil, pans, boilers, blank-books, muniage, penholders, pens, lead pencils, ink, corn meal, lint, adhesive plaster, table salt, oats, hay, reading matter, arm slings, old linen, jelly, etc, etc.	

SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., September 24, 1864.

TO WM. A. HOVEY,

Assistant to Associate Secretary, etc.:

DEAR SIR—At this moment I find it an absolute impossibility to give you a detailed account of the Sanitary work in this Department for the week ending this day. I will, therefore, confine myself to a rough outline, reserving for an early day a more complete report.

The news of the battle on the Opequan Creek reached us in the afternoon of Monday. In the course of the night our complete victory was confirmed. Having ascertained the loss in killed and wounded, I ordered all the goods on hand to be loaded on two of our wagons, and started myself on horseback, in company with Medical Purveyor Dr. Patton, and a train of medical stores of the Government.

We reached Winchester at three o'clock, A. M. Without seeking a bed, I commenced at once my visits to the many hospitals, all crowded to overflowing, and in the most miserable and destitute condi-

tion; wounded and all lived on one-fourth of a ration, and help was terribly needed. To share out equally, I went to see Medical Director Dr. Dubois, as soon as daylight came, and obtained a rough estimate of the number of wounded in each Corps. This estimate guided me in the distribution of all I had. I made the repartition, and issued in bulk to the Surgeons in charge of each Corps, whose vouchers I hold.

By three o'clock, P. M., on the same day, I had passed through all the principal hospitals, and then hurried back to the ferry, with an escort of ten men.

Since then, we have all been working day and night to receive, re-load, and forward goods to the front. Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp went out in an ambulance last Thursday. Two more wagons heavily loaded started with them. At this moment I am busy in having five more wagons and six ambulances loaded with stores. The whole will leave to-day, yet Mr. Knapp sent me word last night, that my presence at W. is needed, so I will start again, though I feel very tired for want of sleep, and the effects of a bad cold, which seems to settle on my lungs.

The two wagons arrived this morning. One of our teams broke down this side of W., and has not yet returned; as soon as it comes in, it will have to start for Hagerstown. There, too, our help is needed.

The Sandy Hook Hospital has been frequently visited, and provided with ice, wine, and other articles.

Mr. Evans leaves just now, and I am anxious you should get these few lines before Monday. Our stores may last four or five days.

Yours, etc.,

G. A. MUEHLECH.

WASHINGTON, September 26, 1864,

MR. WM. A. HOVET,

Assistant to Associate Secretary :

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I herewith present you a brief sketch of my work with General Crook's command during the last few days of my labors among them.

On Sunday afternoon, the 18th instant, the camp near Summit Point was broken up. The long trains were ready for the

march, the men stood long impatient for the "forward, march."

It was not given that night, so we bivouaced as best we could, expecting that in the morning, the anticipated order would be given. At daybreak we commenced to move, the Commission wagon falling into its appropriate place behind the medicine wagon of the Second Division.

This march was performed for the most part amid the low reverberations of the distant firing of the artillery and musketry of the 6th and 19th Corps. It was not until about eleven o'clock that Gen. Crooks was brought into the action.

The location of the field hospital being determined, I left the wagon there and set out with Mr. Knowlton for the front to assist as we could. On arriving on the field we found our forces pushing ahead, thus affording us the best opportunity to remove the wounded, dying and dead into the field hospitals. We did what we could, we assisted them to ambulances, and endeavored to stimulate their patriotism, patience and courage.

By midnight the greater part of the first day's wounded were gathered to the various hospitals—no one spared exertion. Late in the evening we returned to the hospitals to make all, as far as possible, comfortable for the night. By help from nurses, I arranged the sufferers side by side, so that two, and sometimes three, could enjoy the benefit of the same blanket. He who had abundance, by being appealed to, was induced to part with something to cover his less fortunate comrade. Thus by dint of a little planning we were enabled to warm the chilled frame and stop the chattering teeth.

* * * * *

The early morning brought us new work. We assisted at the amputation table, furnishing sometimes lint, bandages and other stores.

I kept the nurses to work on the most needy—sought out the bummers and stragglers around, and set them to work washing off the whole body of the slightly wounded, as they passed under the Surgeon's and dressers' hands, supplying them myself with clean clothing. You would have been pleased to see the trans-

formation I worked in this way. Took the name, and nature of wound of each man for the Surgeon's report, and in this way turned my hand to any and every thing that demanded attention. Thus passed the day, distributing meanwhile many stores I had in my well-stocked wagon for this emergency. Thus passed the next day in part. About noon I turned over to my successor all the Sanitary Commission interests, and went to Winchester to return home. This closes my connection with the Commission as a Relief Agent.

It is with pain I part from a work in which I have taken much pleasure. The soldier that lies bleeding, hungry and chilly, to keep from our doors the tyrant and oppressor, is worthy to receive the sympathies of the best, to engage the energies of the greatest in this most noble of all work—alleviating his sufferings.

Most respectfully, etc.,

D. W. EVANS.

To the Standing Committee of the

U. S. Sanitary Commission:

HARPER'S FERRY, September 21.

Soon after mailing my letters of yesterday to you at Baltimore, I heard of the engagement near Winchester, and decided to come here before visiting City Point.

I ordered Mr. Pancoast to send by Adams' Express, a designated assortment of battle-field and hospital supplies, most of which were in our store-house at Baltimore, the only articles purchased being tin cups, milk and sherry wine, the latter having been specially telegraphed for by our agent here, by request of the Medical Director of the District. I then telegraphed to you my intention to come here, and to Mr. Hovey, at Washington, what I had done. An hour later, I found Mr. Knapp, Associate Secretary for the East, and Mr. John S. Blatchford, of Boston, an Associate Member of the Commission, and requested them to accompany me. No train was to leave Baltimore until this morning.

We reached this place at about 1 P. M. Visiting our storehouse, we found Colonel Muhlebach absent at the front, and the stock of supplies low from the drafts just made upon us. The wagons were at the front, or on the way back, except two four-horse teams and one two-horse team. Our stores were

not to arrive on freight-train here until five P. M., after which, there was to be no train to Winchester with an escort, (without which the road is not considered safe,) until to-morrow afternoon—so the Assistant Adjutant-General and Captain Flagg, the Quartermaster, told us.

By the aid of our natural allies, the press correspondents, we heard of a stragglers' guard as likely to go out at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and have directed the loading of the two four-horse wagons, to go out under its protection.

We have carefully chosen the articles most likely to be needed, viz., beef stock, stimulants, woolen underclothing, bandages and old linen, crackers, lemons and sponges.

The Government transportation is heavily taxed, and though Capt. Flagg and the other officials show a desire to assist as far as they can, they are unable to give us the transportation for a single pound.

Yours respectfully,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary.

Mr. Knapp writes from Harper's Ferry, September 21:

Four car loads of supplies have arrived here to-day, since Dr. Jenkins and I reached here, (one car load from Washington—an excellent assortment—and three from Baltimore.) Three teams, four horses each, are with the three Army Corps. Yesterday Col. Muhlebach sent out two more teams with assorted supplies, and in the morning to-morrow, two more teams well loaded go out, while the two yesterday's teams will probably be here to take out loads to-morrow afternoon; these, with two more teams to come from Washington, will make a good train.

No train has gone out this afternoon, with which Dr. Jenkins and I could go, escorted by them. We expect to go to Winchester to-morrow morning, getting there to-morrow evening. I telegraphed you to-night on receipt of your last telegram, to send another four-horse team from Washington, taking it, if need be, from the storehouse service; also, one saddle horse.

10, P. M. Col. Muhlebach is just in from

Winchester. The need there of supplies is large. A medical train and a commissary train arrived just before he left the place.

The wounded to be provided for, (our own and the rebel,) are about six thousand. There was another engagement for the possession of Fisher's Hill—sharp but short—in which we drove the rebels with a dash—moderate loss to us—captured eight hundred rebels.

* * * * *

Colonel Muhleth writes from the same place, September 23:

I sit down at a late hour of the night to pen you yet a few lines, so as to inform you of the whereabouts of Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp.

They left for the front yesterday morning. I hope they have safely reached Winchester. I myself, returned from there on Wednesday night, after a ride of seventy miles in twenty-four hours. Horse and rider were equally exhausted.

I found some six thousand wounded, (union and rebel,) scattered all over the town; churches, hotels, stores, and private houses are used as temporary hospitals. They were destitute of every thing, and an immense deal of good will be done by the timely arrival of our sanitary goods. Would to God I had more means of transportation, now that our storehouse is overflowing. Four teams heavily loaded have been forwarded to Winchester thus far. As soon as your two other wagons reach the ferry, I shall send out further four loads. One team loaded with stores leaves to-morrow morning for Hagerstown, where there are also a great many patients, and help is badly wanted.

Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp are expected back to-morrow night. However, I hardly think they will be here before Sunday, as the road is unsafe, and can only be traveled with an escort.

Two thousand prisoners, with one hundred and forty-seven commissioned officers, passed through this afternoon; a thousand wounded are also expected in to-night. They will be left at Sandy Hook Hospital; a further lot of as many will be sent either to Baltimore or Frederick. This will leave at Winchester only the most serious cases.

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
WINCHESTER, VA., Sept. 26, 1864.

To the Standing Committee of the

U. S. Sanitary Commission:

GENTLEMEN—I have the satisfaction this morning of reporting the arrival of Col. Muhleth last evening, a few hours in advance of the Commission's supply train of five wagons and eight ambulances. The train was to park on its arrival at the suburbs, and to report here this morning. Miss Harris, Colonel Fach, and two Relief Agents from Washington, accompany it; a very welcome addition to our working force. The supplies are equivalent to eight wagon loads—an assorted stock, with rather a preponderance of food and deficiency of warm coverings and under clothing. *These are the great want we have here now. The weather became cooler on Saturday evening, and there has been a great increase of suffering the last two nights, three cases of tetanus, resulting from exposure.*

Col. M. hopes to be able to secure ambulances, so long as large trains come back here empty. It is not likely to be long, unless much larger numbers of wounded from the front are precipitated upon us.

There are here some thirty very devoted union women, who, ever since the tide of war began to surge up and down the valley, have, when occasion offered, given their time and goods for the relief of our disabled soldiers; whether in our own hospitals, or prisoners in those of the enemy.

The casualties attending the campaigns of Banks, Milroy, and the occupation of Crook's and Averill in July last, were greatly mitigated by their attentions.

In one of the rebel hospitals here, are now thirty-nine wounded union soldiers, who are enthusiastic in their eulogy of those who have treated them so kindly every day since the evacuation by our troops in July.

These ladies have been visiting indiscriminately the past week the hospitals of the city—overdoing the matter in some, entirely neglecting others.

Mr. Blatchford and I devoted a good part of yesterday to the effort of inducing them to systematise their work.

After visiting the representative women at their homes, we effected a conference in the afternoon, and, by our advice, they designated seven of their number who should

be responsible for certain relief work in the seven districts into which we have arbitrarily divided the city. Each of the seven—who will be personally known to Col. Mnhleeh, Mr. Adams, (Hospital Visitor,) and the storekeeper—will call to her assistance such aid as she needs in her district. We shall issue only to the seven such portions of our stock, suitable for the preparation of extra and light diet, as we can, with regard to the wants of the whole service, spare day by day.

The plan has the approval of the Medical Director, and of such of the Chief Medical officers as I have consulted.

I think we have thus secured a reliable corps of hospital visitors, under a good organization, not cumbersome, or embarrassing.

Yours respectfully,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary.

Consolidated List of Stores received at Winchester, Va., Tuesday, 20th, and Thursday, 22d September, 1864.

360 lbs. beef stock.	2 bbls. bandages.
144 bottles whisky.	2 " old linen.
95 " sherry wine.	2 boxes lemons.
364 lbs. condensed milk.	54 lbs. dease, egg.
808 wool shirts.	92 " crushed sugar.
409 prs. wool drawers.	409 tin cups.
182 blankets.	250 splints (surg.)
149 quilts.	10 prs. crut-bes.
406 towels.	8 reams paper.
200 cushions.	2,500 envelopes.
125 bed sacks.	250 prs. wool socks.
108 pillows.	126 sheets.
401 lbs. chocolate.	25 lbs. sponge.
7 bbls. crackers.	144 bottles Jamaica ginger.
400 lbs. malsena.	103 " blackberry syrup.

Statement of Stores received at the Depot of the Commission at Winchester, Va., on Sept. 26th, 1864.

67 bed sacks.	6 bbls. coffee.
184 pillow cases.	50 lbs. chocolate.
184 blankets.	1,440 lbs. cond. milk.
100 quilts.	102 " desiccated egg.
120 sheets.	3 bbls. white sugar.
40 flannel drawers.	5 " brown "
430 " shirts.	1 case jellies.
540 prs. woolen socks.	540 lbs. beef stock.
120 " shoes.	180 " rose bud.
3 cases handkerchiefs.	20 gallons pickles.
9 " towels.	216 bottles whisky.
3 boxes soap.	216 " sherry.
1 lot hand basins.	3 cases blackberry brandy.
1 lot coffee pots.	18 reams note paper.
360 tin cups.	4 " letter "
48 basins.	1 lot envelopes.
1 bbl. tin plates.	1 lot reading matter.
24 bbls. crackers.	300 cushions.
6 boxes (200 lbs.) malsena.	2 bbls. old linen.
4 sheets tea.	1 case lint.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON THE JAMES RIVER.

The following definite and clear expression of opinion in regard to the operations of the Commission, is from one who has been in active military service from the be-

ginning of the War, and has had abundant opportunities of observation:

NEW YORK AGENCY, CITY POINT, VA.,
September 20th, 1864.

TO COL. SAMUEL NORTH,

N. Y. State Military Agent, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR—In my rounds of observation to-day, I visited the Headquarters of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at their floating depot at the wharf, and was, as usual, very kindly received, and my suggestions as to the kinds and methods of relief most requisite just now in hospital and at the front, courteously accepted and considered.

My convictions are only strengthened by every day's observation, that the true way to work for the soldiers is by and through this many-armed organization, and to see that it is supplied with the means, and then that it does its work, and to give it credit for what it does. It is for the interest both of the State Agencies and the Sanitary Commission that their relations be distinctly and permanently adjusted upon these principles. Your own experience as State Agent, will, I know, confirm this view.

On the broad and capacious wharf, I found the work of receiving and sending out fresh vegetables going bravely on. There was a stock of fine cabbages, part of 6,000 heads, which had just come in from Philadelphia by the Commission's Steamer "Elizabeth."

Onions, 460 barrels.

Sweet Potatoes, 95 barrels.

Pickles, 45 casks,

Irish Potatoes, 50 barrels,

Beets, 50 "

And boxes of peaches, &c., in proportion, to be distributed from the local depots in the hospitals on the hill, to say nothing of the well-stored barges piled with the usual and varied supplies.

Several teams were receiving their loads for the front, and I ascertained upon inquiry, that 18 teams (owned by the Commission,) were at the moment employed in getting the fresh supplies to the very front. To the 9th Corps and to the 18th, each, 1,000 cabbage had gone; 715 to the 5th; 750 to the 2d, and the work was going on.

As I stood by the pile, asking questions, I found myself instinctively taking out my

jack-knife, whittling and munching the plump stalk of a broken cabbage-leaf with such memories and visions of home autumn scenes of in-gathering, as you can readily imagine. "That *does* seem natural?" said a soldier standing near, as he stepped forward and followed my example!

To my great satisfaction, also, I found that the authorities of the Commission had reached the conclusion, which you know had long been entertained by the writer, that the Government supply of liquors for medical purposes is ample, (though not always the best in quality, as they ought to be,) or may be made ample; and that this item of expenditure, so costly and so liable to abuse, may safely give way to the claims of other kinds of relief, more strictly within the sphere of the Commission. It is, in my view, a most judicious step, and not taken too soon. Yet a highly respected surgeon near me, suggests, as I write, that *good domestic wines* ought not to cease to be issued by the Commission; and that these can only be collected throughout the country by its agency. I presume they are still furnished, in detail, by the Commission, through trusty visitors of the General Hospitals in the cities, upon the proper requisition.

The issuing of *tobacco*, which had been suspended for a time, has been resumed, but is restricted in amount. To the *unpaid* men, and to those in hospital who desire it, no issue is more valued or more welcome; and I repeat only what I hear from the surgeons, most of whom speak "not inexperienced," when I say that there ought to be no deprivation of it to the classes I have just named. Mr. Seymour's supplies of this article, here in the front, will be remembered when the fresh vegetables so freely sent have been long forgotten.

The demand for *woolen shirts, drawers and socks*, is always very great; but the need now is more imperative than ever before, at this season and in this climate; and I am told here that every woolen shirt given out costs the Commission nearly *four dollars*. The class really needing them most is that of the convalescents, returning or about to return from hospital to regiment, with little flesh and blood about

them, and almost certain to relapse if sent away thinly clad. In very many cases these must go back shivering, unless the Commission or a State Agency supply them; and it may be weeks before the convalescent, returned to duty, can "draw" them in his regiment. The sequel is, a relapse and a return to hospital.

And this brings up a very urgent and momentous question of *economy*. Where one thousand dollars is paid readily as bounty to a raw recruit, out of the public treasury, is it not a strange contradiction and neglect of wise *economy*, (leaving *humanity* out of the question,) to suffer the loss of the vigorous service of an experienced soldier by this defect in arrangements and provisions, otherwise so admirable and bountiful?

A soldier is brought to the hospital, sick or wounded, from a distant camp or line. His soiled or bloody shirt and drawers replaced by a hospital shirt and drawers of cotton; he remains for weeks—unpaid most likely; recovers, is "returned to duty,"—but, if he cannot communicate with his regiment, and often even if he can, there is no provided source for fitting him out warmly for his new exposure, except the charities of the Commission. It is so, too, as regards rheumatic invalids in hospital, requiring warm woolen underclothes. I know how entirely you will agree with me, from your own large experience in your office, when I express the earnest wish, that this simple consideration could *rule* in all that regards the sick and temporarily disabled soldier, who is not a proper subject for *immediate discharge*; namely, that "If a green recruit is worth \$1,200 or \$1,500 to put into the ranks, then it is the purest economy to spend at least half as much on any means and appliances which promise to promote and hasten the restoration of a sick or disabled veteran to sound health and vigor, and to efficient service."

I wish that this rule could dominate in all that relates to our hospitals, as it certainly has been recognized by the Sanitary Commission.

And I cannot help asking, why, if fresh vegetables are needful and desirable for keeping up the health and vigor of soldiers

in the front, the inconsiderable outlay of a few dollars per month, for extra-clothing for each invalid, should be omitted or unprovided for in the arrangements of Government, while such enormous sums are paid merely to secure the enlistment of men, who, for the want of just this outlay, are so soon to be transferred from the ranks to the hospitals.

I have always urged and recommended, though ineffectually, that a per centage of all State and local bounties should be retained, to constitute an "extra-clothing and hospital fund"—ample for the need, and a far more honorable resource to the recipient.

If society choose to add, as it will, to this requisite supply, by voluntary gifts, well. It is a necessary expression of its warm interest in the soldier; but the question is, whether its gifts should be so heavily drawn upon as they are, in simply enlarging and improving, (and that fitfully, unequally and partially,) his daily ration; or, whether its bounty should not be concentrated upon the work of assisting Government in all means and appliances, however costly, for hastening the return of vigor to a sick or wounded veteran, and of the cured veteran to duty in his regiment?

And I would instance the following as among the foremost examples of the direction of such efforts:

First of all. A very large addition to the medical staff of the army in the field and in the hospitals—of experienced and faithful Surgeons. This cannot be had without—

Second. A liberal increase in their pay, which is now mean and scanty.

Third. A liberal expenditure for extra clothing for all invalids—making this indispensable requisite to recovery and restoration easily accessible.

Fourth. A great and prompt enlargement of the appliances and the material for the preparation of special diet, in connection with all hospitals; and the provision of intelligent and faithful oversight and management of this department, so liable to abuse and its consequences to the sick.

And last. Perhaps most difficult, the utmost efforts, in the transportation of the sick and wounded, from camp and the battle-field, to prevent that waste of strength

through exposure and unrest, which, more than any other cause, perhaps, so often precludes recovery, by making subsequent medical cure, however kind or skillful, ineffectual.

Yours respectfully,

J. V. VAN INGEN,

Field Agent, N. Y. S.

DOINGS AT THE FRONT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, September 10, 1864.

Sent Tug "Curtain" to Point of Rocks in charge of Mr. Anderson, with the following supplies, to be distributed through the 18th Corps, by Mr. Geo. A. Williams, Agent, 15 bbls. pickles, 30 bbls. onions, and 10 kegs tamarinds.

Communication from Mr. Fay, that the matter of head-boards has been arranged with the Chief Medical Officer, and the Commission need not supply them.

September 12th.

The issues to-day have been very large.

September 15th.

No news of importance from the front. Rebels continue to fire upon passing trains, but as yet, have failed to hit any. They use the solid Whitworth shot, and in some instances have hit between the rails. Trains are now running mostly at night, and earthworks are being erected for their protection.

Issues to-day have been rather large, yet during the afternoon, business was quite slack.

September 18th.

Went front and met Dr. McDonald at the 9th Corps; rode along the lines, giving Mr. Marsh, who accompanied us, every facility for gaining any information he might want. Rode to the 10th Corps, from there home. The Station at the 9th Corps is almost perfect in its arrangement. Tents neatly arranged. Grounds in good condition; arbors and archways made from cedar boughs, and the whole enclosed by fence, made from the same material.

The day was very quiet, and the pickets to a great extent observed it, as there was but very little firing.

September 20th.

News from Gen. Grant's Head-Quarters that Gen. Sheridan had badly whipped Gen. Early in the Shenandoah Valley, captured three thousand of the enemy, six guns, and all the dead and wounded. Found two thousand dead.

A salute of one hundred shotted guns is ordered to be fired along the lines to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock, in honor of the victory.

Great rejoicing; troops arriving, and with the good news just received, all feel that the end of this rebellion is near at hand.

September 21st.

The salute in honor of Sheridan's victory was fired according to orders this morning, meeting in portions of the line a vigorous response from the rebels.

Sent to the front yesterday and to-day, 218 bbls. onions, 2 bbls. beets, 49 bbls. pickles, 8 boxes peaches, (green,) 1 bbl. tamarinds; all transported by our own wagons.

September 23d.

Sent to the front, 144 bbls. onions, 6 bbls. beets, 32 boxes peaches, (green).

Four Corps received battle-stock, viz., 2d, 9th, 10th, and 18th.

Four Corps received stock for issuing, viz., 2d, 9th, 10th, and 18th.

Every preparation is being made to meet the demands of the next battle. Have a good reserved stock, but we need a great deal more, even if the resistance on the part of the rebels is not as stubborn as we all expect it will be.

September 23d.

Issues to-day have been very large.

Sent three wagons front; two to the 5th, and one to the 10th Corps.

Communication from Dr. C. R. Agnew, from which the following abstract is taken:

"The Executive Committee, upon the receipt of your note (Dr. McDonald's) of the 16th inst., passed the following resolution, viz., Dr. McDonald be instructed to issue tobacco to soldiers in the trenches, notifying them, however, that such issues cannot be permanent."

HEAD-QUARTERS 2d DIV., 5th A. C., }
SATURDAY, Sept. 24th, 1864.

"Received of Mr. E. M. Barton, Agent of the Sanitary Commission for the 5th A. C., the following articles for the use of the enlisted of this Division: 6 bbls. pickles, 26 bbls. onions.

Signed, C. E. LA MOTTE,
Lt.-Col. and A. A. A. G."

Issue of Vegetables to the 10th Corps by J. R. ELMBREE, Agent in charge 10th Corps Station, Sept. 24th, 1864:

First Brigade 1st Division, 13 bbls. onions, 1 gall. pickles.

Second Brigade 1st Division, 8 bbls. onions, 210 heads cabbage.

Third Brigade 1st Division, 9 bbls. onions, 1½ bbls. pickles, 115 cabbages.

First Brigade 2d Division, 13 bbls. onions.

Second Brigade 2d Division, 5 bbls. onions, 121 heads cabbage.

Third Brigade 2d Division, 6 bbls. onions, 282 heads cabbage.

Colored Brigade 3d Division, 14 bbls. onions, 1 bbl. pickles, 50 cabbages.

Light Artillery, 2 bbls. onions, 3 galls. pickles.

Detachments, Head-Quarters Guards, and Ambulance Corps, 170 heads cabbage, 7½ bbls. onions, 2½ bbls. pickles.

Some preferred cabbage to onions, and vice versa, but if onions only were distributed, there were enough to give each man four times the amount of Government rations.

This distribution is now being made to all the Corps, but have received no reports from other Agents.

September 27.

The harge Oneida, of Philadelphia, was loaned to us by Col. Pitkin, and the work of placing her in suitable condition for our use and wants was immediately commenced.

September 28.

The 10th Corps are crossing the Appomattox this evening. It was rumored that they were going to Newbern, N. C.

We are anxious about the movements at the front; various rumors are afloat, but nothing definite can be learned.

September 29.

2 A. M. Messenger from Captain Harris arrived, asking for two wagons to remove his goods. The hospitals were broken up, sick sent to City Point, and were ordered, (the hospitals,) to move at 4 o'clock.

All teams were to be at Gurley House at 4.30, at which time, also, the troops were to march.

4 o'clock. Captain Harris arrived, and expected a hot time during the day. Wagons were sent for his disposal. One wagon with battle stock was to follow in each corps, and two wagons were loaded at this point, to report at Cedar Level, and there to await orders. Captain Harris returned to the front about 5 o'clock, Dr. Anderson accompanying, and have not heard from him since.

News this evening is, they are fighting on the right, have carried three lines of the enemy's works and captured sixteen guns.

Wagons sent front for the removal of superfluous goods from the 2d, 5th and 9th Corps, arrived this evening; brought no news.

Wagons sent to Cedar Creek to await orders, returned; loads to be retained in them, and to be ready to move at a moment's notice.

September 30.

News from the Right, glorious! Captured thirty guns, two fifteen-inch and one hundred-pound Whitworth, with all their ammunition, together with quartermasters' stores. Kantz's Cavalry was within three miles of Richmond last night, and reinforcements were sent him. The negroes fought splendidly, and we are slowly driving the rebels. Casualties not known.

The 10th and 18th Corps are the only ones engaged on the Right, and they are doing their work well. Gen. Barnham was killed, and Gen. Ord wounded.

The 10th Corps crossed the James River at Deep Bottom, on the 18th, at Aikin's Landing. General Grant has been on the Right both days.

Our wagons accompanied each corps, and sent besides tug Curtin, with large load in charge of Mr. Anderson, to Deep Bottom; also, having on board Mr. Fay and six Relief Agents. The Sanitary Commission was on the ground first. The two wagons that were kept loaded were sent to the Right, one going to the 10th Corps, and the other to the 18th in the field.

Tag returned at 3.30, again loaded, and sent back; besides loading two more wagons and sent out, giving us on the Right a bountiful supply to meet any emergency.

Skirmishing during the night and morning, in the afternoon a regular engagement, resulting in our forces carrying two lines of the enemy's works. Mr. Davis in charge of the wagons is with the trunks, and has a good supply.

At the request of Col. Sharpe, Deputy Provost Marshal General, we accommodate to-night three refugees from Petersburg, who left that place yesterday. They report that the people are greatly dissatisfied, and that the majority of them will bail our forces with joy when they enter either Petersburg or Richmond.

Four wagons and tag sent to the Right.

October 1.

Have had a drenching, cold rain all day. No fighting that we have heard of. Our forces on the Right, (Butler's command,) are within 6 miles of Richmond, and there must remain till reinforcements come up; some have gone to-day. Roads are in wretched condition already, and two or three days of such rain as this will dig out the bottom. Colored troops of the 10th Corps fought splendidly, and we told all that they gained yesterday and the day previous. The wounded are being sent down the river as fast as possible. The Sanitary Commission have done a good work in this department. Were on the ground yesterday before noon with stores and agents, (at Deep Bottom,) and at work immediately on landing. Two loaded four-horse teams were sent to the front early in the morning, one to the 18th, the other to the 10th Corps. The tag Curtin took a second load of stores in Deep Bottom yesterday afternoon. These, with the two loads that crossed with the corps the day previous, were enough to supply the demands, but it was desirable, in case more were needed at the front to dispatch two loads yesterday afternoon.

They got off at 5 o'clock, P. M., and reported at Deep Bottom, at 2 A. M. of to-day. The Curtin was sent up this morning

with fresh supplies, and again during the afternoon. Finding the hospitals were being cleared and no new cases being brought in, the two teams which arrived this morning were sent across the river to find a camping ground and await orders. One team, partially loaded, remained at the hospital to remove tents and stores in case the hospital should change location.

Eleven wagon loads (4 horses each) have been sent to Deep Bottom, and two (four horse) loads have gone directly to the front, making thirteen (four horse) loads sent to the 10th and 18th Corps. Two agents have gone directly to the front, and from eight to ten have been constantly engaged at the hospital at Deep Bottom.

From the left we have glorious news. A messenger came in at 2 A. M. for two loads of stores to be sent to the left, as our stock in wagons at that point was nearly exhausted. The teams left early this morning in charge of Mr. Little.

We have on the left Capt. Harris, Capt. Davis, Dr. Stevens and Son, Mr. Barton, and four teams with 5th and 9th; Mr. Miles and two teams in reserve at 2d; Mr. Risden and Caulkins' two teams with 18th at Bermuda Hundred; Mr. Richards and one team with 18th Corps front; Mr. Ellsbroe and one team with 10th Corps, front; Mr. Clayton and one team with a part of Mr. Fay's A. R. C. at hospital, Deep Bottom; Wagon-master Luce with two teams encamped on south side of the James, at Deep Bottom. Mr. Fay is on hand with his corps of A. R. Agents, but still keeping a small force at the base hospitals.

October 2d.

The steamer Elizabeth arrived at one o'clock to-day. Her stock is much needed, and we are unloading her as rapidly as possible.

Our left wing is reported to-night as being within one mile of the South-side Railroad, still pressing forward; have been fighting all day, and the wounded are coming in very rapidly, being brought by rail within one-half mile of the hospitals, thence by ambulance. A large number of them are bad cases.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Newberry writes from Louisville, September 8:

By Wheeler's raid we are cut off from all communication with the army, and shall be for — or more to come. For this reason I can give you no late news of our operations there.

In the supply Department there must be little done for sometime, as when the road is opened we must expect to have our trans-

portation limited by the demand for food for the fighting men.

Dr. Blake has written me, calling loudly for stores at New Orleans, and this interruption of our communications with Atlanta will permit me to respond to this call.

I shall, therefore, on Monday start a steamer load of stores down the river. We have a fair lot of just the articles he wants.

Among the items of our business at the front, not before reported, I may mention—

1st. The death by typhoid fever of J. H. Milliken, our agent at Knoxville. Milliken was a young man of fine acquirements and pure and estimable character. Mr. Bellam takes his place temporarily.

2d. Culbertson gives a good report of the garden at Knoxville, with tabular statement of products distributed. Wills, at Chattanooga, ditto.

3d. Mr. E. L. Jones, our invaluable storekeeper at Chattanooga, has returned to Nashville sick; will soon be better, however—shall probably keep him at Nashville, and make him storekeeper there.

M. C. Read and Prof. Horsford, of Chattanooga, are both still absent on sick leave, but will probably return by the 15th.

Dr. Seymour, now holding M. C. Read's place at Chattanooga, closes his term of service on the 10th instant, and must go home for three months.

A Mr. Longley, a friend of Dr. Warrier, has been appointed storekeeper at Chattanooga, in place of Mr. Jones, and will go there as soon as communication is opened.

These changes, and many others of less importance, have given, and will give me much thought and anxiety. The work of the Commission at the front, Chattanooga, Nashville, and all along the line, is going on as well or better than could be expected.

Dr. Webster, appointed Chief Inspector to Sherman's Army, in place of Dr. Read, (disabled,) has been brought back to Nashville, sick, and will not be able to return. If he recovers soon, I shall make him Superintendent of the Agency at Nashville, in place of Mr. Root, who will return to the Relief Department.

Dr. Woodward will take Dr. Webster's place at the front.

Rev. J. P. T. Ingraham, the best of our hospital visitors, is about to leave us to take a pastoral charge at Indianapolis. I am very unwilling to lose him, as he is a model man.

The hospital gardens continue to prove great institutions.

The hospital trains are now all reduced to systm under Dr. Barnum's management, who has a contract from the Medical Department. New and improved cars are being procured, and soon that branch of the service will be a credit to all concerned.

We are furnishing stores and other fixtures, extra assistants and supplies, in all needed ways; helping the enterprise on to the highest success.

Dr. Hazen and Mr. Carpenter, with my consent, have left the service of the Commission, and have taken contracts as Surgeons on the hospital train.

In the warehouse, office, hospital directory, home, etc., here, every thing is going on as usual.

We send you, this week, report of issues and shipments. We aim to keep very little here, but push every thing forward as rapidly as possible.

Supplies are coming in freely, and, in compliance with instructions, we have been purchasing largely of onions, pickles, and kraut—have ordered, bought up, all we could in the country, and have had large quantities of pickled cabbage, cucumbers, and onions made up for us.

The pickles sent by you have arrived safely.

I bought two thousand bushels of onions in Cleveland, at \$1.25 per bushel; while at Cincinnati they are worth \$2.50.

MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT.

No great changes have occurred in this Department. The two Ways have left Vicksburg, sick. Benson remains in charge. Carpenter and Grant, of Memphis, have returned with restored health. Christy's report of his late trip you have received. He continues to give entire satisfaction.

At Cairo, all things work smoothly under Mr. Shipman's good management. The status in the home field is very encouraging. Our friends are working busily, and in the best of spirits.

KINGSTON.

August 13.

Mr. Eno writes:

In my last report from this station, I stated that Mr. Van Dyke would make the next. About the close of the month, an active agent was wanted for the 14th Army Corps, and he was assigned to it—but unfortunately was too unwell to make a report, or go to the field assigned him.

The following is a condensed statement of refreshments given to the sick and wounded on trains going North, and also the report of disbursements for the month. From this, the supporters of the Sanitary Commission, can see at a glance, that they have not given, or labored in vain.

During the month of July, there were 6,671 sick and wounded soldiers on the trains going North, to whom there were given 671 gallons of coffee, 16 gallons of soup, 53 gallons of punch, 5 gallons of tea, 55 gallons of ale, 16 bottles of stimulants, 414 lbs. of crackers, 3,895 rations of bread and ham, 2 shirts, 6 lbs. of bandages, 5 lbs. of candles, (to use in box-cars at night,) and milk and sugar sufficient for their coffee.

Mr. Sutcliffe's report of the refreshment station at Dalton, was sent you some days since. You can always rely upon his work being done well.

After the 15th of July, the trains ran so that it was not necessary to stop at Resaca, and I directed Mr. Johnson to report at Marietta, with his fixtures and stock.

Dr. Herrick, who had charge of shipping the wounded, then thought it best to start a station, either at Marietta or Vining's, but a change in running trains rendered it unnecessary. Mr. Johnson is now assisting Mr. Tone; should it be necessary to start another refreshment station he will be an excellent man for it. His report of the 15th of July, shows that there were 3,235 sick and wounded soldiers stopped on the trains at Resaca, to whom he gave 386 gallons of coffee, 88 gallons of soup, 14 bottles of stimulants, 735 lbs. of crackers, 12 shirts, and 12 drawers. Many of the wounded going north on furlough, have lost their clothing, and leave the hospital minus coat and pants, rather than wait for clothing to be brought to the front by the Government—thinking they would be able

to draw in Chattanooga or Nashville; in this, many have been disappointed, merely because proper arrangements had not been made.

In justice to the officers, it may be said they have had their hands full but the Government has sufficient clothing, and measures are being taken by which it is hoped the evil will be remedied.

Dr. Clendenin, of Nashville, and Dr. Salter, of Hospital No. 1, Chattanooga, assured me that wounded men reporting to them, should have clothing drawn for them.

Dr. Goslin, of the 15th Army Corps' Field Hospital in this place, has taken the right method to insure every man what is necessary.

He sends a man to Chattanooga with them, to draw their clothing there. Still, I fear there will be some who will have to depend on the Sanitary Commission, and I would advise keeping Capt. Brayton, of the Home in Nashville, supplied, so that he can send men away rejoicing, instead of ashamed to meet their friends.

August 23.

Since my last, the refreshment stations at Dalton and Kingston have been doing their usual "good Samaritan" work, supplying the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers on their way North. Mr. Sutcliffe had the misfortune to lose his stock and fixtures, by the raid into Dalton last week, but his stoppage will be only temporary.

At this station, Mr. Kennedy has charge of the relief department, and Mr. Barret the refreshments. From the 1st to the 21st of August, 2,555 sick and wounded passed on trains going North, to whom refreshments were given, consisting of hot coffee, light bread, cold ham, crackers, apple sauce, pickles, etc.

Whole No. since the 15th of June, 14,616.

Much of my time this month has been spent in looking after the interests of furlonged men and men in hospitals without descriptive rolls—many furlonged men, who had lost their clothing in battle, were being sent from hospitals of the Army of the Tennessee, in shirts and drawers, without any provision being made to draw clothing on the way home, leaving them dependent on Sanitary and State Agents for

a supply. As State Agent for Illinois, I was authorized to furnish clothing for Illinois soldiers, but did not feel justified in expending money that should be used for purchasing vegetables, when I knew the Government had made ample provision, and all that was necessary to obtain it, was to know how. I found the Surgeons willing to do all they supposed they were authorized—and as soon as the Medical Director's attention was called to it, the evil was remedied, and now there is no reason why a soldier should be sent from hospital without sufficient clothing.

The medical authorities also say they would much prefer that the Sanitary Commission would furnish less of stimulants and clothing, and expend the money saved in anti-scorbutics. I would, therefore, suggest that every Sanitary Agent should make himself acquainted with what the Medical Purveyor can furnish, and regulate his orders and issues accordingly. If this is done, I firmly believe it will be safe to reduce the amount appropriated for clothing and stimulants three-fourths, and the amount thus saved will do vastly more good expended in anti-scorbutics.

The great staples necessary for the health and comfort of the army are vegetables, pickles, kraut, good vinegar, dried fruit, condensed milk and beef, farina, rags and bandages. Let there be a full supply of these, and with what the Ladies' Aid Societies will furnish, there will be no scurvy or complaining.

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CAIRO.

The Agent writes from the "Soldiers' Home" at Cairo, September 21:

I have thought it would be a pleasure to you, were some one to write you something about affairs at this very busy place. Heretofore you have heard little of our labors and successes at this point, from the simple fact that we have all been so busy, not for the past day, week or month, but all the time.

Once in a while, it is true, we do have a lull in the storm, but these quiet times are always occupied by preparations for the coming contest, which we know must shortly follow. Invariably the contest begins with redoubled force and energy. Our

rests are short. They are only breathing spells, in which the decks are cleaned, the guns rubbed up, and every instrument for our bloodless warfare, put in order for action. The stay of our guests is necessarily short. They do not as a general thing desire to remain long, either going home or to their regiments, and we could not with our limited arrangements, accommodate them for a longer time. In fact, for this place our arrangements are not extensive enough.

We have not room enough, force enough, nor ability sufficient to cope with the great numbers daily and hourly pressing upon us. Here we are with our two regular trains, besides extra ones, daily pouring their live streams of blue coats upon us—with the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers depositing their loads from above, for shorter or longer times, and from below as far as New Orleans; and on either side of the great father of waters there, the arteries of the Southwest both great and small, they come, and come not like the steady flow of blood from veins, but in gushings and floods, not unlike the discharge from the arteries of the human frame.

Our dining room is capable of seating one hundred and eighty men comfortably, but by crowding it will accommodate two hundred and ten men. Our sleeping apartments are three in number, containing in all two hundred and forty-three beds. The rooms are high and well ventilated. The beds are all kept clean and free from vermin. The clothing is neat and comfortable. There are, besides these, eight in the hospital room, for the use of the sick alone.

There are comparatively few of our people who know much of the workings of these indispensable institutions, and smaller by far is the number who know anything about this particular one. Here every man has his duties laid down, and he is expected and does perform them. The workings of the "Home" here are as regular as clock-work; the machinery of which is wound up daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly. It is not a wheel within a wheel, but a clock within a clock. Soldiers are received only in squads, or one at a time—squads numbering from two to one hundred and fifty.

Their names are registered, and tickets of admission to the dining room are given them, which are taken at the door. Tickets are issued three times a day.

Last Thursday the 143d Illinois came up from Helena, Ark. Only twenty-seven men, out of a regiment of over eight hundred men, were fit for duty. These men had been cooped up on board the boat for four or five days, and their situation was enough to soften the hardest heart. Seldom, I trust, is such a regiment seen. They looked more like moving skeletons than a live regiment. A great many were boys, tender and delicate—too young for such hardships. Their sufferings had been great, their situation was a sad one. Our breakfast lasted until 11 A. M. That day we issued about seven hundred meals. But to see their feeble looks of thankfulness, was enough to repay us for our labor. Food was carried to those who were not able to come to the table.

Yesterday, the 20th September, was a lively day. The 140th Illinois, on their way home from Paducah, Ky., to be mustered out, stopped in Cairo about twenty hours.

Application was made by the Surgeon to Mr. Shipman, the General Agent and Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home, for supper and lodging for his sick. They were received. Then there was hurrying to and fro, of busy feet. New life was infused into the kitchen, renewed energy was necessary for all. The tables were set again for the third time for supper. The hospital room was soon filled with the sickest. Still they came. They were carried up stairs to the sleeping apartments and there was room, at least for the most serious cases.

By this time supper was prepared. Hot tea and coffee steamed upon the tables. Good bread and good butter were there in abundance. Stewed fruit and pickles awaited the assault. The meal was a simple one, but with those poor fellows it was a feast. To stand at the head of that room and look upon that scene was a sight rarely to be met with.

If the noble self-sacrificing men and women at home, who are working in the cause, could have been present, they would have returned to their homes satisfied that their efforts were not made in vain.

The full number of meals issued yesterday was about eight hundred. The report for the week ending September 21st, has just been brought in. In it seventeen States are represented. Number of men admitted, two thousand eight hundred and thirty-three. Number of lodgings, two thousand seven hundred and sixty-two; Number of meals issued, five thousand three hundred and fifty-two. Average number per day, four hundred and five. Aided in procuring transportation, one hundred and forty-four.

ANTI-SCORBUTICS—FORREST AND WHEELER'S RAID—SOLDIERS' HOME.

Dr. Newberry, under date of September 30, Louisville, Ky., writes:

"For the last ten days we have been in a state of suspended animation in consequence of the raid of Forrest and Wheeler on the Nashville and Chattanooga road. For the present it has arrested all transmission of goods or persons below Nashville, and has, of course, checked the flow of the flood of vegetables with which we proposed to inundate Sherman's army. As a part of this special effort, our shipments have been within the past week very large, about 25 car-loads, and I had made arrangements for keeping up an almost equal flow of stores for some time to come.

"I have authorized the establishment of a Home at Paducah and another at Jeffersonville, opposite this city, in both of which places such institutions are greatly needed."

AID TO THE UNION PRISONERS IN CHARLESTON.

It will rejoice many hearts to know that the United States Sanitary Commission has opened a communication with our officers and soldiers imprisoned in Charleston, Andersonville, and other places in the South. Through Lieut.-Col. Woodford, Agent of Exchange at Charleston, assurances have been received from Maj. Lay, the Confederate Agent of Exchange, that supplies of specified kinds, and packed under specified directions, will be safely forwarded to our men. The offer was received by the Commission with some distrust, and it was not until after a thorough examination of the grounds of encouragement for the successful issue of an undertaking so important, that the decision was made.

Dr. M. M. Marsh, the efficient agent in charge at Beaufort, S. C., has already sent over the lines the following articles:

24 cases beef stock.
14 cases condensed milk.
13 cases coffee.
13 cases tomatoes.
1 case cocoa.
24 cases chocolate.
4 cases pickles.
4 cases jellies.
11 bbls. crackers.
1 bbl. dried fruit.
25 tin cups.
quantity black pepper.
quantity red pepper.
quantity soap, combs and pin-cushions.
quantity writing paper and envelopes.

2 cases lemon juice.
10 bottles stimulants.
36 linen vests.
36 linen coats.
40 prs. pants.
20 lbs. tea.
2 1/2 wooden blankets.
100 quilts.
1,200 towels.
1,300 handkerchiefs.
1,150 prs. woolen socks.
550 prs. slippers.
750 prs. woolen drawers.
400 prs. cotton drawers.
400 cotton shirts.
750 woolen shirts.

A second lot is on the way, viz:

1,000 blankets.
2,000 shirts.
2,000 prs. drawers.
2,000 prs. socks, wool.
1,000 prs. shoes.
2,000 prs. pants, wool.
1,000 blouses, wool.

If the object is attained, and no new obstructions arise, the Commission will continue the merciful work, as far as its means will allow.

THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Sir—Although the Sanitary Commission has been in active operation more than three years, its plan of action, and what it tends to do or not to do, and its relation to the United States Government and the people, are even yet imperfectly understood, and though it has sought to do its work through the Medical Department of the army, there are Surgeons who mistake its object, and look to it for supplies which the Government is both willing and able to furnish.

The object of the present article is to set these things in their right light, and to show what the Government can supply, and how those wants can be met, and how and what the Sanitary Commission is ready to do, and also to show the harmonious working of the Sanitary Commission with the Medical Department of the Army.

The Sanitary Commission is merely auxiliary to the Government in meeting the wants of the sick and wounded of the army, at those times and in such places as from the exigencies of the case the Government is not prepared to meet. It does not propose either to manage or supply general hospitals in the rear of the army or rear of its basis of supplies, except in extreme or urgent cases. All that can be needed at

such places can be had of the Medical Purveyors and Commissaries of Subsistence of the Army, upon proper requisitions, approved by the Medical Directors.

I copy the list of regular supplies for hospitals as they appear on the supply tables, viz:

Barley, (pearl,) beef, (extract,) cinnamon, cocoa, or chocolate, corn starch, farina, gelatine, ginger, nutmegs, pepper, (black,) porter, sugar, (white,) tea, tapioca, wine and whisky.

This comprises staples articles of light diet, whilst the Commissaries will furnish fruits, (green and dried,) vegetables, oysters, crackers, butter, etc.

At all the principal points these articles can be had in unlimited quantities, and charged to the Hospital Fund.

Medical Purveyors will furnish sheets, pillow cases, counterpanes, mattresses, mosquito bars, pillows, shifts and drawers.

All these things and many others, are within the reach of every Surgeon in charge of hospitals in rear of the army, and an inspection of the Medical Purveyor's and Commissary's stores at this point shows that these departments are fully adequate to the whole army in this Department, and both the Medical Purveyors and Commissaries of Subsistence, state, that they can and do fill every proper requisition made upon them by Surgeons in charge of hospitals. It is a well known fact that every hospital can, by proper management, save a hospital fund sufficient for the purpose of purchasing all that is required over and above the regular ration. So far as hospital clothing is concerned, the Government supplies are all that is needed for the use of the men while in hospital.

What then is the work of the Sanitary Commission? I answer; It is intended to furnish what is needed as diet or clothing at those times, and at such points as the Government is not prepared to meet.

The exigencies of war, especially when the lines are long, leading to the base of supplies, require all the attention and care of the Government to keep the army supplied with the proper material of war, such as ordnance, quartermaster's and commissary stores.

Here is the work of the Sanitary Com-

mission: By the favor of the Government it is allowed separate transportation, which is accompanied by its own agents, charged with the distribution of its supplies. Since the commencement of the campaign in the South-west there has not been one day in which there has not been either a battle or a heavy skirmish, involving the care of great numbers of sick and wounded men.

The agents of the Sanitary Commission have their supplies with the army, ready to be distributed when needed, and no one who has not been with the army in time of battle can have any conception of the magnitude of the wants which must then be met. Clothing must be provided for the wounded; food and stimulants suitable for wounded men must be on hand.

The Government can only provide the regular ration, and not always even that—but the wounded must be provided for with something beside meat, bread, and coffee. The Sanitary Commission has all that is needed, and the Surgeons have but to ask and their wants will be supplied.

Vegetables, in large quantities, are required both for the sick and the well, or scurvy will decimate the army. The work of the Sanitary Commission is *pre-eminently at the front with the army.*

There are three thousand cars daily running between Nashville and the front. The Sanitary Commission has for many weeks past and is now sending one hundred tons of supplies to the front every week from Nashville, and still the cry is, "send us more." To give one hundred thousand men four ounces of vegetables a day, would require one car and a half each day, or twenty-five thousand pounds.

One peculiarity of the Sanitary Commission is, that it works through and in harmony with the Military and Medical Departments. Its agents are accredited to its Commanding Generals and Medical Directors. It sends no men to give to *this or that man*. It goes to the General and his Medical Director and says, we propose to do thus and so for the sick and wounded. "What do you need? And in no one case has a general or Medical Director turned to them the "cold shoulder." They meet us as friends and tell us what they need.

We give only through the Medical Department.

We do not know the soldiers of one State from those of another, we only know them as soldiers of the United States, fighting to maintain and restore our beloved Government. We are co-workers with them. Its officers are our friends, and we abundantly acknowledge the kindness with which they greet us in our work.

The constant cry of misappropriation is false. As a class, the Surgeons of the Army are humane, high-minded, and honorable set of men, working night and day for the good of those under their charge. There are bad men among them, and so there are among the Quartermasters and Commissaries. But will the loyal people of the North say, "We will send no more supplies, because some of them are not properly appropriated." As well might the Government say, "We will send no more stores to the army, because there are dishonest Quartermasters and Commissaries." Rather do as the Government does—search out the bad men, and drive them from the service, and put better men in their places.

In going through the warehouse of the Commission to-day, I counted one hundred barrels of dried apples, three hundred and fifty dozen cans of oysters, and other supplies in proportion. There is no excuse if the hospitals at this and other parts of the rear are not supplied with all they require, for the Government has made ample provision and nothing but carelessness or inefficiency, prevents their being used for the benefit of the soldiers.

In cases where men are being sent through this place, either to the front or the East, and are without clothing, where, as it is often the case, there is not time to make out the proper descriptive rolls, the Sanitary Commission is ready to furnish what is needed. But where there is time so to do, it can be had of the Quartermaster.

The relations of the Sanitary Commission to the Government, the people, and the army, are those of the most perfect kindness that can be desired—and it is believed that it enjoys the full confidence of the Medical Bureau.

BENJ. WOODWARD,
Inspector Sanitary Commission.

SCENES AMONGST THE WOUNDED.

Rev. Mr. Grant writes from Memphis, July 30:

The work continues pretty uniformly the same, varied at distant and irregular intervals by incidents that tend to stir the blood into quicker motion, and more firmly fix in the mind dates for future reference.

On the evening of the 20th, Capt. Way and myself were at the railroad depot, waiting for the train to come in with the wounded from the battle-field of Tupelo. At dark it arrived with its freight of mangled men, numbering about two hundred and fifty. Some were but slightly wounded, others were dying of the injuries they had received, and a few were already dead. All hands were soon actively engaged. The evening was mild and pleasant, and the first thing to be accomplished was the removal of the sick and wounded from the cars, rendered almost intolerable by the offensive odor arising from the putrefying blood which had flowed from the wounds. The sight was sickening to the strongest heart, but it was no time for the indulgence of squeamishness. In as short a time as possible, all were taken out of the cars, the severely wounded being placed on stretchers, and then gently lifted into the open air. Cool water and a few crackers were very gratefully received by them, and they were greatly needed, for with all the diligence that could be used, it was one o'clock at night before the last one was in hospital. The strangest thing to me was the absence of all impatience and complainings on the part of the wounded. They seemed to think that everything was being done for them that could be, under the circumstances, and were very grateful for the assistance rendered. Some of them manifested indomitable "pluck" to the last.

One poor fellow who had a ball through the body, below the diaphragm, was lying near the door of one of the cars. When the stretcher was placed near him, he raised himself on his elbows and looked up into my face and said, "Doctor, I can crawl on to it." "No, lie still." "Jump in, men, and place him on the stretcher. Be careful, gently, gently—there, that will

do—now lift him into the open air." Asking him afterwards how he felt, he replied, "better, thank you. You belong to the Sanitary Commission, don't you?"

I wished very much to ask him why he thought so, but others needed immediate attention, and I did not have time to listen to his answer. The next day he was dead. Another had both thighs terribly shattered, and was otherwise severely wounded by a minié ball. He was so very quiet that at first sight he appeared to be dead. Finding him on examination still alive, I moistened his face with water, and gave him a sip of the same, which seemed to revive him. Smiling feebly, he said, "thank you, you are very kind." He was carried by hand to the hospital, being too weak to endure the jolting of the ambulance. In an hour his spirit had thrown off its "mortal coil," and had winged its flight to that "bourne whence no traveler returns."

Many similar scenes could be detailed, but it is not necessary. Those mentioned will serve to show you what your agents often witness.

Since the return of the troops from the expedition to Tupelo, I have visited many of the sick in the regimental hospitals, relieved some of their pressing wants, and, I hope, remedied some defects in their hospital arrangements.

THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS.

HOPKINTON, MASS., July 28, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—I have just returned from a protracted tour to the West and Southwest, where I had the satisfaction of observing the operations of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions in those departments, and I had proposed to sum up the results of my observation for the use of any who may desire to know the opinions of different individuals who have been over the ground. But I find that there is little left for me to do, since noticing in the July number of the Sanitary Reporter the extract from a communication of Rev. Dr. Thompson, of New York, who had just preceded me. His opinions so precisely accord with my own, I beg leave to indorse them most

heartily. I was satisfied that both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions had their distinctive and most valuable offices to perform, and that in those departments they were being performed as faithfully as could be expected, considering the imperfections always incident to poor human nature. And with nothing was I more pleased than the practical as well as theoretical harmony between the two great Commissions, for the humane and Christian comfort of our brave and patriotic soldiers.

The good understanding prevailing between the principal officials of these Commissions at Nashville is quite satisfactory to every liberal and generous mind, and it would certainly seem as if there never need be any friction between these two great agencies, which can scarcely be regarded as other than real, though separate departments of the Government itself. Here and there some evil-minded persons may have been found to disparage the one or the other, and perhaps both. It may have been that some soldier, from some unfortunate circumstances, amid the confusion always incident to a battle, may have failed to receive the aid and comfort which would otherwise have been most gladly contributed. But certain it is, the great mass of our suffering men do fully appreciate the charities and self-denying efforts of their fellow-countrymen, and none more than those who are engaged in the service of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. For if there are any true-hearted, philanthropic, Christian men and women in the land, to be relied on as faithful almoners of a nation's bounties, they are those whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Huntsville. Their simple object being to do good, both to the bodies and souls of our soldiers, they cannot easily work otherwise than hand in hand, and cheerfully aid one another in their respective spheres of labor; and while we honor the names of Sherman, Rousseau, Hooker, Howard, and others in the field, we can regard with scarcely less respect those of Read, Root, Ewing, Smith, and their coadjutors in the Sanitary and Christian departments of the great work of suppressing rebellion.

Nor are those other benevolent efforts in

behalf of the freedmen and poor fugitives less worthy of mention, since they, too, appeal to the most patriotic, humane, and Christian sympathies and principles of the nation. Earnest and faithful men and women are toiling amid countless and gigantic difficulties in behalf of these classes of our fellow-countrymen, whose sufferings are unknown, and can never be told to the great mass of our people. I bespeak for them the continued and increased charities and prayers of every patriot, philanthropist, and Christian.

With the most grateful remembrance of your own personal kindness, I am,

Most respectfully yours,

J. C. WEBSTER.

THE HOSPITAL TRAIN.

How many of my readers ever rode an hour upon the bare floor of a freight car? Would not most of them wait a long time before commencing a journey if this was to be the method of their going? If any of them have had this experience, they understand the difference between it and the soft yielding seat of the passenger coach that only lulls to repose.

And yet the retreating tide of maimed humanity that had dashed in its strength against the rebel strongholds in Georgia, is flowing from the front in just this way. Thousands of men, wounded in all conceivable ways, are coming forward in freight trains, with nothing to rest upon but thin beds of straw, laid upon the bottom of the cars.

It is more than a hundred miles, all day and all night, from the front to Chattanooga. There the wounded men rest, perhaps, for a time in hospitals, and perhaps not. Then on they go a hundred and fifty miles farther, all day and all night long again, to Nashville, and then, those who are able, a hundred and eighty-five miles farther, to Louisville. What a journey this to wear out the strongest man!

This method of transporting the wounded is not peculiar to the Army of the Cumberland, and it must not be inferred that Government is remiss in the cause of its brave defenders. All available means are used to promote their comfort. The best means of transportation at hand are em-

ployed. Surgeons and nurses, with medicines, are sent with the trains. And here steps in the U. S. Sanitary Commission with its labor of love. At appointed stations along the road its agents are ready with coffee, soup, sandwiches, stimulants, fruits, and other supplies in abundance. Thus the rough way is smoothed, and suffering alleviated as much as possible.

But this is not all that is done. There is now established what is properly called the "Hospital Train." It is, indeed, a hospital on wheels. Passenger coaches are procured, the backs removed from the seats, boards are laid along these seats on each side the whole length of the car, and upon these beds are spread, with nice white sheets and pillows, presenting a truly inviting appearance. These trains are furnished with a dispensary and cooking car, nurses, and all the appliances for dressing wounds, all under the care of a surgeon in charge. Besides, we have on board a wardrobe supplied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, from which the men are furnished with clean shirts and drawers as they need them. Regular meals are served, their wounds dressed, and everything done for the comfort of the suffering soldier that can be devised in a well-regulated hospital. And this care is appreciated. The men often say, "I wish I could ride upon the hospital train until my wound is healed." In describing the hospital train I should have said that, in some of the cars, the seats are entirely removed, and upright standards placed along each side of the passage way, to which stretchers are suspended by rubber bands. By slipping off the rubber bands the stretchers, with the patients upon them, can be readily removed, and thus the wounded easily transferred to hospitals when the train arrives at its destination.

Each of these methods has its advantages, but both, as can easily be seen, are a great improvement upon the hard, jarring, springless box car.

Again, in the freight train there is no communication between the cars, and it is very difficult to give proper attention to the patients while the train is in motion. Is it asked, "Why not use passenger cars altogether?" the answer is, they cannot be

procured. There are not enough on these roads that can be spared to supply the demand.

As I sat down to write I was about to head my letter, "*Who'll contribute a car?*" If a few of the railroad companies of the North, who could so easily do it, would send us each one of their easy-going coaches, how speedily could they be fitted for use, and what an amount of suffering might be saved. The farther our army advances into the enemy's country, the more urgent the call for increased means of transportation.

A great part of the credit of establishing and maintaining the hospital train is due to Dr. J. P. Barnum. He has labored since December, 1862, against difficulties that would have worn out a less earnest and unselfish man. He has found a constant helper in the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which has ever been ready to furnish him with supplies for the suffering soldier. The Government have, in this work of mercy, gone hand in hand with the Commission.

But much as the Hospital Train is doing, it is very inadequate to supply the pressing wants of the thousands who are coming forward from the front.

Think, then, anew, friends of the soldier. As you ride on velvet-cushioned seats, yielding with gentle motion to every inequality; as you recline upon beds that offer the perfect luxury of repose, think of the soldier wounded, shattered, in defence of our best privileges, as he is rushed on for hundreds of miles, in rattling, swinging, jarring, springless freight-cars, every motion, almost, of which sends a thrill of pain to limbs that will never tread again the old familiar walks of home—that never will kneel again!—to limbs that never can respond again to the warm pressure of friendship's grasp, that never can strike another blow for country or for right—to bodies that still carry the deadly missile that did not quite reach the seat of life—to bruised, aching heads, that must always ache, and to brains from which reason has been suddenly driven by the shock of bursting shell.

What a contribution have these made to the country?

Who'll contribute a car? C. B. W.

SOMEBODY'S DARLING.

Into a ward of the white-washed halls,
Where the dead and dying lay,
Wounded by bayonets, shells, and balls,
Somebody's Darling was borne one day—
Somebody's Darling, so young and so brave,
Wearing yet on his pale, sweet face,
Soon to be hid by the dust of the grave,
The lingering light of his boyhood's grace.

Matted and damp are the curls of gold,
Kissing the snow of the fair young brow,
Pale are the lips of delicate mold—
Somebody's Darling is dying now.

Back from his beautiful blue-veined brow
Brush all the wandering waves of gold;
Cross his hands on his bosom now—
Somebody's Darling is still and cold.

Kiss him once for somebody's sake,
Murmur a prayer both soft and low;
One bright curl from its fair mates take—
They were somebody's pride, you know;

Somebody's hand hath rested there—
Was it a mother's, soft and white?
And have the lips of a sister fair
Been baptized in the waves of light?

God knows best! he has somebody's love;
Somebody's heart enshrined him there;
Somebody wafted his name above,
Night and morn, on the wings of prayer.

Somebody wept when he marched away,
Looking so handsome, brave and grand;
Somebody's kiss on his forehead lay,
Somebody clung to his parting hand.

Somebody's waiting and watching for him—
Yearning to hold him again to her heart;
And there he lies with his blue eyes dim,
And the smiling, child-like lips apart—
Tenderly bury the fair young dead,
Pausing to drop on his grave a tear;
Carve in the wooden slab at his head,
"Somebody's Darling slumbers here."

T A P S.

BY MRS. ROBERT A. HOWLAND.

"Our ward fronts on the sea, and the night
bugle-music is blown away on the sea-wind,
and comes back to us in sweet fragments. It is
nine o'clock: the day, full of fear and hope, is
ended; and while I write the sick men are all
quiet in their little camp-beds. A moment
more and the last bugle will sound, signal for
silence and darkness. Now it begins, and the
notes, rising and falling, say as plainly as music
can say anything: 'Put it out; put it—out; put
—it—out!'

"It is a clear, golden call, almost a human
voice, falling softer and slower to the end; and
when well played, lingering a little at the last,
like some one very cautiously bushing a baby
to sleep," &c.—Part of a letter from the U. S.
Army Hospital.

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
The clear notes rising, climb
A ladder of sweet sound,
And from each golden round
The ascending angels, nearing heaven, do chime,
"God's watch begins, put your dim lanterns out!"

Put out each earthly light;
It is God's shadow falls
Along the darkening walls,
Closing us round, when men say "it is night:"
He draws so near it shuts the daylight out.

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
Forbear each scheme of ill;
Good angels walk the ward,
And heaven is all abroad

When twilight falls and earth lies hushed and still;
Room for the angels! Put the dark deeds out.

Put out all thoughts of care:
Rest gently, aching head;
He stands beside the bed,
Who brings in peace and healing, unaware,
And sends soft-footed sleep to slum pain out.

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
Put out—quite out—the light.
Hark! as the notes grow faint,
Was that a new-voiced saint
Who climbed with them and sealed the starry height?
Has from among us any soul gone out?

God's love falls as a screen,
Where lights burn dim and pale,
No flickering flame shall fall,
For with His hand held steadfastly between
No wind can blow to put these life-lamps out.

Through earth's long night He waits,
Till to the soul's glad eyes,
Filled with divine surprise
Heaven opens wide her golden morning gates:
Then, day being come, He breathes the candle out.

A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

June 4.—We are at White House; the
wounded are pouring in; forty wagons pass-
ed us. Here comes a man with his hand
shot off. He has walked twelve miles to
get his wound properly dressed. He seems
to forget it, and with wild excitement
shouts, "Grant is the man; he is hell on
the fight." The Sanitary Commission is
splendid. It is here tending our sick and
wounded. Tell the ladies it does more
good and relieves more suffering than any
one thing in the army. Here comes another
wagon train of wounded, every one a hero.
Although cut and slashed in every direc-
tion, not one of them complains.

June 15.—Have been on forced march for
the last four days and nights; one hundred
thousand of the army marched with us,
and it was terrible to see the men fall out
of the ranks by hundreds, unable to move
one step farther. One man dropped dead
near me. We have been two days on half
rations—one day with none.

June 17.—Charged the enemy. Had a terrible enfilading fire against us. Out of the regiment, (only four companies,) in killed, wounded, and missing, lost fifty, only one hundred and fifty going in. In the evening, made another charge, and then engaged the enemy for some time.

June 18.—Tried to take a fort; our regiment sent to the front. First we ran double-quick about one-eighth of a mile to the railroad, through a shower of bullets; rested a moment, climbed the hill near the road; went double-quick twenty yards; rested, and again ran twenty yards to a sort of gully. There we stayed about four hours, fired at continually.

June 21.—Had to be all day in the dust; sun almost scorching us.

June 22.—Worked all night on fortifications. Saw a number of negroes. They are much more intelligent than I supposed, cleanly and brave. They have made the most splendid charges here on record. I have seen them fight right here.

June 28.—So near the enemy can hear them talk. The Sanitary Commission gave each soldier in our brigade a ration of porter, a pickled cabbage and onions to-day. The Christian Commission gave each of us two sheets of paper and two envelopes. Lost my knapsack and every thing in it in the charge, as did the other men.

June 29.—The Sanitary Commission is the greatest thing of the age—to my personal knowledge furnishing our sick boys with tomatoes, pickled cabbage, chocolate, dried apples, corn starch, soft crackers, and everything essential. At work all last night on fortifications.

June 30.—Worked all day cutting trees and carrying them to our pits to make bomb-proof shelter for them, as we expect to be shelled by a fort near us. We live on hard tack.

July 1.—The Sanitary Commission knowing how hard our regiment has been worked, gave each man some pickled tomatoes, preserved chickens, chocolate, lemons, condensed milk, etc. Of course very little to each, but my share made a new person of me.

July 8.—I have been sick, but the doctor got for me, from the Sanitary Commission, farina, corn starch, turkey soup, etc., and built me up. Our regiment, after being in front of rifle pits and under a continual fire for eighteen days, has at last been relieved. When sent back Company A. had eight men and two corporals, and Company D. two men and one corporal fit for duty. You have no idea how much soldiers think of letters. When I ask sick boys how they feel, more than half answer, "Oh! a great deal worse; have not had any letters for a long time." They seem to think that the cause of their illness. The names of the

officers who carried muskets for sick or tired soldiers, were Lieut. Col. Pier, of Fond du Lac, Capt. Carpenter, and Lieut. Ballard.

July 17.—The regiment has but twenty-nine men fit for duty. Last night Col. Pier hearing one of the men cough, got up at midnight and brought him a cup of his own sugar. It is what few officers would have done for a private.

July 17.—We drew a number of sanitary stores this afternoon, consisting of pickled onions, condensed milk, tomatoes, etc. I suppose, of course, you know that by sanitary stores we mean provisions given us by the Sanitary Commission.

July 18.—To-day I saw a little negro, (about twelve years old,) busily engaged trying to learn to write. He had a lead-pencil and an old piece of paper, with a copy set him at his request. He is very ambitious to learn, and if you would send him a writing book it would help.

July 19.—Back to our old diet—hard tack and coffee; like it very well indeed. Pound it and fry it like-griddle cakes, fry it whole, make fish-balls of it; with coffee and sugar, who can complain?

July 24.—Our regiment at the front again. I am detailed to guard baggage cars at City Point. Drew rations of dried apples, bny five cents' worth of flour, and make pies. If anything ever tasted good, that's it. Shall request soon to be relieved from the detail and join the regiment.

Yours,

W. H. PECKHAM.

TREATMENT OF OUR PRISONERS BY THE REBEL AUTHORITIES.

I.

Ever since the outbreak of the war, the country has been full of painful rumors concerning the treatment of prisoners of war by the rebel authorities. Every returned prisoner has brought his tale of suffering, astonishing his neighborhood with an account of cruelty and barbarity on the part of the enemy. Innumerable narratives have also been published and widely circulated.

The public have been made very uneasy by these reports. One class have accepted them as true; another have felt them to be exaggerated; still another have pronounced them wholly false; fictions purposely made and scattered abroad to inflame the people against their enemies, and doing great injustice to the South.

REPORTS OF REBEL CRUELTY.

On the other hand, rumors have crossed the border, of an outraged public sentiment in the South, precisely on the same account; reports abounding there of cruelty and barbarity to the rebel soldiers in our hands. It has been repeatedly announced that whatever restrictions or privations have been suffered by Northern men in Southern prisons, were in retaliation for these.

In the beginning of such a prodigious contest as this has proved to be breaking out in the midst of a people unaccustomed to war, and quite removed from extensive military traditions and examples, it was natural that many irregularities should have occurred, and many usages of warfare been disregarded on both sides; and that in the matter of prisoners especially, where either region was suddenly inundated by many thousands, great abuses should have taken place, until accommodations could be provided and arrangements perfected.

But these early days of ill-preparation have long passed away. The war has lasted more than three years. Both sections have become accustomed to it, and are familiarized with the ideas, habits and laws of military life. The passionate fury of one side and the patriotic indignation of the other, have had time to settle down, at least so far as to accept this condition, and make every civilized provision known in modern warfare, for the mitigation of its horrors and inhumanity.

WRETCHED CONDITION OF THE RETURNED CAPTIVES.

And yet the painful rumors, so ripe at the outbreak of the war, instead of subsiding with its early tumult, have lately increased to an extent which has seriously alarmed and aroused the public. The tales of cruelty and suffering have become even more heart-rending. Months ago we heard reports that our men were starving and freezing in the Southern prisons. In the late temporary resumption of the cartel, boat-loads of half-naked living skeletons, foul with filth, and covered with vermin, were said to have been landed at Annapolis and Baltimore. Men, diseased and dying, or physically ruined for life, unfit for further military service, had been received in the stead of soldiers of the enemy returned in good condition, and who had been well fed, well clothed, and well sheltered by our government during their captivity.

But many reasons were circulated to account for such a difference. It was alleged that these emaciated men were the victims of camp dysentery, or similar distempers, and of food, which however good in quality and sufficient in quantity, was averse to the Northern constitution. Again it was alleged that the rebel army was, itself, suffering for want of food and clothing, and that the very guards to these prisoners had fared no better.

There were many among us who were willing to credit any statement which would mitigate or excuse the intamy of permitting such a condition of things. For the sake of humanity and the American name, they hoped that the worst could not be proved.

But there were others to whom the proof was sufficient, and who were convinced that the whole was a horrible and pre-determined scheme, contrived for the purpose of depleting our armies, and discouraging our soldiers.

The attention of Congress was roused, and a committee was appointed to investigate this and other alleged barbarities. Their report has just been published.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Before, however, the result of their inquiries was known, the United States Sanitary Commission, as the organ of popular humanity and phi-

lanthropy, determined to make an independent investigation, and such a one as would, if possible, put the question at rest on all points upon which the public mind was divided or unsettled, and furnish information so full, and so direct from original sources, that every one could arrive at a just conclusion.

They accordingly appointed the undersigned as a Commission of Inquiry, partly because they were known to be removed from any political affiliations and prejudices, and partly because three of their number were supposed to be professionally competent to read the unerring testimony of nature in the physical condition of the men.

Two distinct departments of evidence were thus opened.

MANNER OF THE INVESTIGATION.

In entering upon their duties the Commissioners had no other wish than to ascertain the truth, and to report the facts as they were. For this they endeavored to collect all the evidence within their reach, and to hear and record all that could be said on every side of the subject. They were accompanied by a United States Commissioner, and in every case the testimony was taken on oath or affirmation before him, or in his absence before other officers equally empowered.

The mass of evidence, printed as an Appendix, was collected during a period of several months, and is now arranged and classified to facilitate the reader's reference. If it had been printed in the order in which it was taken, it would have been too irregular and apparently heterogeneous to have exhibited the total result of the investigation. But, as it now stands, it will be found united and homogeneous enough in the tragical story which it tells, without variation or self-contradiction, to the country and to the world.

Much of the evidence, however, is made up of bare abstracts of the free and full conversations that were held with the persons examined, and although all the essential facts are preserved, yet many graphic and pathetic minor details are omitted, which escaped or could not enter the formal record, but sometimes were noted down by those who were present. Besides this, the Commissioners were witnesses themselves, and saw and heard enough to overwhelm them with astonishment, and remove the last doubt from their minds.

For this reason, and that the reader may share with them, so far as can be, the almost dramatic development of the inquiry, they send out these pages, not in the form of a brief documentary report, simply referring to the testimony, but as a descriptive narrative, in which all the salient points of the evidence and the results of their own observation are incorporated together. Such a narrative need be only an intelligible grouping of material—its facts will speak best for themselves.

VISIT TO ANNAPOLIS AND BALTIMORE.

The Commissioners, at the very outset, were brought face to face with the returned captives.

They first visited the two extensive hospitals in Annapolis, occupying the spacious buildings and grounds of the Naval Academy and St. John's College, where over three thousand of them had been brought in every conceivable

form of suffering, direct from the Libby Prison, Belle Isle, and two or three other Southern military stations.*

They also visited the West's Buildings Hospital and the Jarvis General Hospital in Baltimore, where several hundreds had been brought in an equally dreadful condition.

LIVING SKELETONS.

The photographs of these diseased and emaciated men, since so widely circulated, painful as they are, do not, in many respects, adequately represent the sufferers as they then appeared.

The best picture cannot convey the reality, nor create that startling and sickening sensation which is felt at the sight of a human skeleton, with the skin drawn tightly over its skull and ribs and limbs, weakly turning and moving itself, as if still a living man!

And this was the reality.

The same spectacle was often repeated as the visitors went from bed to bed, from ward to ward, and from tent to tent. The bony faces stared out above the counterpanes, watching the passer-by dreamily and indifferently. Here and there lay one, half over upon his face, with his bed clothing only partially dragged over him, deep in sleep or stupor. It was strange to find a Hercules in bones; to see the immense hands and feet of a young giant pendant from limbs thinner than a child's and that could be spanned with the thumb and finger! Equally strange and horrible was it to come upon a man in one part shrivelled to nothing but skin and bone, and in another swollen and misshapen with dropsy or scurvy; or further on, when the surgeon lifted the covering from a poor half unconscious creature, to see the stomach fallen in, deep as a basin, and the bone protruding through a blood-red hole on the hip.

Of course these were the worst cases among those that still survived. Hundreds like them, and worse even than they, had been already laid in their graves.

The remainder were in every gradation of physical condition. Some were able to sit up and to move feebly around their bed; others were well enough to be out of doors; many were met walking about the beautiful grounds of the Naval Academy—by a curious and probably accidental compensation on the part of the Government, swung to this Paradise on the Severn from the sandy little island in James River and its bleak and bitter winds.

EVIDENCES OF MENTAL SUFFERING.

But however unlike and various the cases were, there was one singular element shared by all, and which seemed to refer them to one thing as the common cause and origin of their suffering. It was the peculiar look in every face. The man in Baltimore looked like the man just left in Annapolis. Perhaps it was partly the shaven head, the sunken eyes, the drawn mouth, the pinched and pallid features—partly, doubtless, the grayish, blighted skin, rough to the touch as the skin of a shark. But there was something else: an expression in the eyes and countenance of utter desolation, a

look of settled melancholy, as if they had passed through a period of physical and mental agony which had driven the smile from their faces forever. All had it; the man that was met on the grounds, and the man that could not yet raise his head from the pillow.

It was this which arrested the attention of some of the party quite as much as the remarkable phenomenon of so many emaciated and singularly diseased men being gathered together, all, with few exceptions, having been brought from the same prisons in the South.

Every one who was questioned contributed his part to swell the following account of privation, exposure and suffering.

The rail is now to be lifted from two of the nearest and most noted Southern stations for prisoners. There appear, indeed, occasional glimpses of places of captivity in Danville, Virginia, and Andersonville, Georgia, but the chief interest centres upon Libby and Belle Isle, at Richmond.

THE HIGH CLAIM OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

Before, however, the narrative proceeds, two things must be borne in mind:

First, that we are now penetrating into the arrangements of a people who claim, and have so far maintained their entire independence of the United States Government; who have organized a government of their own; who have also organized immense and powerful armies; who had, in the beginning, so far prepared themselves, and, during the last three years, have so far completed their preparations, as to be able to match, and all but overpower one of the strongest military establishments ever known.

Let them, for the moment, be taken for what they claim to be: "The Confederate States of America," a mighty government, and a "superior race," first in civilization, in culture, and in courage; distinguished for all that is magnificent, chivalric, humane, hospitable, and noble, for all the graces and refinements, and highest developments of individual and social life.

MODERN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Furthermore, another thing must be borne in mind: that, in these days of civilized warfare, the cowardly and barbarous usage no longer prevails of maltreating prisoners of war, but the moment a conflict is over, every sentiment of christianity and humanity rises to mitigate the bloody horrors of the field. The distinction of friend and enemy is no longer known.

The surgeon, with the high sense of professional duty in which he has been educated, goes equally to all. The prisoners taken are not thrown into dungeons, nor shut up in jails, but put into barracks. They are made as comfortable as the arrangements necessary for their safe keeping will permit. They are sheltered, warmed, fed and clothed, in all necessary respects, as well as the soldiers that vanquished and captured them. They become, for the time being, part of the military family of the enemy, and are made subject to the same sanitary and other regulations.

Their barracks are never overcrowded; sufficient air is allowed for exercise and fresh air; so much bathing is permitted, and even insisted upon, for the sake of cleanliness; their food is in every respect the same as that consumed

* The Commissioners would acknowledge the courtesy and hospitality of the accomplished and efficient Surgeon in charge of the Hospital at the Naval Academy, Dr. Vander Kieft, by whom every facility for conducting the inquiry was heartily given.

by the army within whose lines they are; their clothing is all that they need. Such a thing as robbery of their private property is unknown, or never tolerated if known.

TREATMENT OF THE SICK.

When sickness overtakes the prisoner he is removed to the hospital, taken from his bunk and placed upon a bed, and then, whatever distinction existed before vanishes entirely; every kindness and attention, every remedy and delicacy that a sufferer needs, is freely and generously given.

Such is the high principle and noble usage which prevails in modern warfare. The perfection of its arrangements is a matter of pride and honor among soldiers, and the proper boast of every Christian government.

We now turn to the people and government at present waging war with our Government, and who, through a dead lock in the cartel, hold tens of thousands of United States soldiers as prisoners of war.

II.

The first fact developed by the testimony of both officers and privates is that prisoners were almost invariably robbed of everything valuable in their possession, sometimes on the field, at the instant of capture, sometimes by the prison authorities, in a "quasi official way," with the promise of return when exchanged or paroled, but which promise was never fulfilled.* This robbery amounted often to a stripping of the person of even necessary clothing. Blankets and overcoats were almost always taken, and sometimes other articles, in which case damaged ones were returned in their stead.

This preliminary over, the captives were taken to prison.

The Libby, which is best known, though also used as a place of confinement for private soldiers, is generally understood to be the officers' prison.

DESCRIPTION OF LIBBY PRISON.

It is a row of brick buildings, three stories high, situated on the canal, and overlooking the James River, and was formerly a tobacco warehouse. The partitions between the buildings have been pierced with doorways on each story.

The rooms are one hundred feet long by forty feet broad. In six of these rooms, twelve hundred United States officers, of all grades, from the Brigadier General to the Second Lieutenant, were confined for many months; and this was all the space that was allowed them in which to cook, eat, wash, sleep, and take exercise! It seems incredible. Ten feet by two were all that could be claimed by each man—hardly enough to measure his length upon; and even this was further abridged by the room necessarily taken for cooking, washing and clothes-drying.

At one time they were not allowed the use of benches, chairs or stools, nor even to fold their blankets and sit upon them, but those who would rest were obliged to huddle on their hanches, as one of them expresses it, "like

so many slaves on the middle passage." After awhile this severe restriction was removed, and they were allowed to make chairs and stools for themselves, out of the barrels and boxes which they had received from the No. 10.

They were overrun with vermin, in spite of every precaution and constant ablutions. Their blankets, which averaged one to a man, and sometimes less, had not been issued by the No. 10, but had been procured in different ways; some taken by purchase, sometimes through the Sanitary Commission. The prisoners had to help themselves from the refuse accumulation of these articles, which having seen similar service before, were often ragged and full of vermin.

THE ROOMS OVERCROWDED.

In these they wrapped themselves at night, and lay down on the hard plank floor in close and stifling contact, "wormed and dovetailed together," as one of them testifies, "like fish in a basket." The floors were recklessly washed late in the afternoon, and were therefore damp and dangerous to sleep upon. Almost every one had a cough in consequence.

There were seventy-five windows in these rooms, all more or less broken, and in winter the cold was intense. Two stoves in a room, with two or three armfuls of wood to each, did not prove sufficient under this exposure, to keep them warm.

The regulations varied at different periods in stringency and severity, and it is difficult to describe the precise condition of things at any one time, but the above comes from two officers, Lieutenant Colonel Farnsworth and Capt. Calhoun. As it happens, they are representatives of the two opposite classes of officers confined in the Libby. The former coming from Connecticut, and influentially connected at the North, was one of a mass to which a great profusion of supplies, and even luxuries, were sent. The latter coming from Kentucky, and being differently situated, was entirely dependent upon the prison fare.

These officers were there during the same season, but never became acquainted. The accounts of each, which will be found in the evidence side by side, are here combined and run together.

From their statements it appears that the hideous discomfort was never lessened by any variation in the rules, but often increased. The prison did not seem to be under any general and uniform army regulations, but the captives were subject to the caprices of Major Turner, the officer in charge, and Richard Turner, inspector of the prison.

GUARDS ALLOWED TO SHOOT THE PRISONERS.

It was among the rules that no one should go within three feet of the windows, a rule which seems to be general in all Southern prisons of this character, and which their frequently crowded state rendered peculiarly severe and difficult to observe. The manner in which the regulation was enforced was unjustifiably and wantonly cruel. Often by accident, or unconsciously, an officer would go near a window, and be instantly shot at without warning. The reports of the sentry's musket were heard almost every day, and frequently a prisoner fell either killed or wounded.

* No instance of the promise being kept appears in the evidence, but there have been occasional reports, though very rare, where money was returned, but even then in depreciated Confederate currency.

It was even worse with a large prison near by, called the Pemberton Buildings, which was crowded with enlisted men. The firing into its windows was a still more common occurrence. The officers had heard as many as fourteen shots fired on a single day. They could see the guards watching for an opportunity to fire, and often, after one of them had discharged his musket, the sergeant of the guard would appear at the door, bringing out a dead or wounded soldier.

INSTANCES OF SHOOTING.

So careless as this were the authorities as to the effect of placing their prisoners in the power of the rude and brutal soldiery on guard. It became a matter of sport among the latter "to shoot a Yankee." They were seen in attitudes of expectation, with guns cocked, watching the windows for a shot. Sometimes they did not even wait for an infraction of the rule. Lieut. Hammond was shot at while in a small boarded inclosure, where there was no window, only an aperture between the boards. The guard caught sight of his hat through this opening, and aiming lower, so as to reach his heart, fired. A nail turned the bullet upward, and it passed through his ear and hat brim. The officers reported the outrage to Major Turner, who merely replied, "The boys are in want of practice." The sentry said, "He had made a bet that he would kill a damned Yankee before he came off guard." No notice was taken of the occurrence by the authorities.

The brutal fellow, encouraged by this impunity, tried to murder another officer in the same way. Lieutenant Huggins was standing eight feet from the window, in the second story. The top of his hat was visible to the guard, who left his beat, went out into the street, took deliberate aim, and fired. Providentially he was seen, a warning cry was uttered, Huggins stooped, and the bullet buried itself in the beams above.

MURDER OF A PRISONER AT DANVILLE.

Very much the same thing is mentioned as happening to the prison buildings at Danville. A man was standing by the window conversing with private Wilcox. At his feet was the place where he slept at night, close under the window, and where his blanket lay rolled up. He had his hand on the enclosure. The guard must have seen his shadow, for he was invisible from the regular beat, and went out twenty feet to get a shot at him. Before the poor fellow could be warned, the bullet entered his forehead, and he fell dead at the feet of his companion.

Almost every prisoner had such an incident to tell. Some had been shot at themselves a number of times, and had seen others repeatedly fired upon. One testifies that he had seen five hundred men shot at.

The same brutal style of "sporting" while on guard, seems to have prevailed wherever the license was given by this cruel and unnecessary rule. Captain Calhoun mentions that while he and his companions were on their way to Richmond from Northeastern Georgia, where they were captured, they stopped at Atlanta, and just before they started, a sick soldier who was near the line, beyond which the prisoners were not allowed to go, put his hand over to pluck a bunch of leaves that were not a foot

from the boundary. The instant he did so, the guard caught sight of him, fired, and killed him.

Another instance of equal skill in "shooting on the wing," will be noticed in the case of the soldier who only exposed his arm an instant in throwing out some water, and was wounded, fortunately not killed, by the rebel bullet. Something of the same kind was related in the course of conversation, but is not in the evidence, as happening at the Libby, when an officer was shot while waving his hand in farewell to a departing comrade.

But there were cruelties worse than these, because less the result of impulse and recklessness, and because deliberately done. There opens now a part of the narrative which is as amazing as it is unaccountable.

The reader will turn to the heart rending scenes of famine which the testimony before the Commission has exposed.

FAMINE IN LIBBY.

The daily ration in the officers' quarter of Libby prison, was a small loaf of bread about the size of a man's fist, made of Indian meal. Sometimes it was made from wheat flour, but of variable quality. It weighed a little over half a pound. With it was given a piece of beef weighing two ounces.

SOUTHERN FOOD.

But it is not easy to describe this ration, it was so irregular in kind, quality and amount. Its general character is vividly indicated by a remark made in conversation by one of the officers: "I would gladly," said he, with emphatic sincerity, "gladly have preferred the horse-feed in my father's stable."

During the summer and the early part of the fall, the ration seems to have been less insufficient, and less repulsive than it afterwards became. At no period was it enough to support life, at least in health, for a length of time, but however inadequate, it was not so to such a remarkable degree as to produce the evils which afterward ensued.

It was about the middle of last autumn that this process of slow starvation became intolerable, injurious, and cruel to the extent referred to. The corn bread began to be of the roughest and coarsest description. Portions of the cob and husk were often found ground in with the meal. The crust was so thick and hard that the prisoners called it iron-clad. To render the bread eatable, they grated it, and made mush out of it, but the crust they could not grate.

Now and then, after long intervals, often of many weeks, a little meat was given them, perhaps two or three monthfuls. At a later period, they received a pint of black peas, with some vinegar, every week. The peas were often full of worms, or maggots in a chrysalis state, which, when they made soup, floated on the surface.

DREAMS AND DELUSIONS OF FAMINE.

Those who were entirely dependent on the prison fare, and had no friends at the North to send them boxes of food, began to suffer the horrible agony of craving food, and feeling themselves day by day losing strength. Dreams and delusions began to distract their minds.*

* The very same phenomenon occurred during the

Although many were relieved through the generosity of their more favored fellow prisoners, yet the supply from this source was, of course, inadequate. Captain Calhoun speaks of suffering "a burning sensation on the inside, with a general failing in strength. "I grew so foolish in my mind that I used to blame myself for not eating more when at home." "The subject of food engrossed my entire thoughts." "Captain Stevens having received a box from home, sat down and ate to excess, and died a few hours afterward." "A man had a piece of ham which I looked at for hours, and would have stolen if I had had a chance."

One day, by pulling up a plank in the floor, they gained access to the cellar, and found there an abundance of provisions: barrels of the finest wheat flour, potatoes and turnips. Of these they ate ravenously until the theft was discovered.

SUPPLIES SENT FROM THE NORTH WITHHELD.

But the most unaccountable and shameful act of all was yet to come. Shortly after this general diminution of rations, in the month of January last, the boxes, which before had been regularly delivered, and in good order, were withheld. No reason was given. Three hundred arrived every week, and were received by Col. Ould, Commissioner of Exchange, but instead of being distributed, were retained, and piled up in warehouses near by, and in full sight of the tantalized and hungry captives. Three thousand were there when Lieutenant Colonel Farnsworth came away.

There was some show of delivery, however, but in a manner especially heartless. Five or six of the boxes were given during the week. The eager prisoner, expectant perhaps of a wife's or mother's thoughtful provision for him, was called to the door and ordered to spread his blanket, when the open cans, whether containing preserved fruits, condensed milk, tobacco, vegetables, or meats, were thrown promiscuously together, and often ruined by the mingling.

THEFTING OF THE BOXES.

These boxes sometimes contained clothing, as well as food, and their contents were frequently appropriated by prison officials. Lieut.

celebrated Darien Exploring Expedition, under Lieut. Strain, some years ago. The whole party suffered starvation; a number of them died, and the remainder were rescued when they had become emaciated and debilitated nearly to the point of death.

"From the time that food became scarce to the close, and just in proportion as famine increased, they revelled in gorgeous dinners. Truxton and Maury would pass hours in spreading tables loaded with every luxury. Over this imaginary feast they would gloat with the pleasures of a gourmand."—*Darien Explorer, Exped., Ho. p. Monday, vol. 1, p. 613.*

The party separated, Strain and Avery being the least exhausted, and going on before the others to obtain succor if possible.

"At length starvation produced the same singular effect on them that it did on Truxton and Maury, and they would spend hours in describing all the good dinners they had ever eaten. For the last two or three days, when most reduced, Strain said that he occupied almost the whole time in arranging a magnificent dinner. Every luxury or curious dish that he had ever seen or heard of composed it, and he wore away the hours in going round his imaginary table, arranging and changing the several dishes. He could not force his mind from the contemplation of this, so wholly had one idea—food—taken possession of it."—*Darien Explorer, Exped., Ho. p. Monday, vol. 1, p. 750.*

McGinnis recognized his own home-suit of citizen's clothes on one of them, pointing out his name on the watch-pocket.

The officers were permitted to send out and buy articles at extravagant prices, and would find the clothes, stationery, hams and butter which they had purchased, bearing the marks of the Sanitary Commission.

In one instance this constant thievery became an unexpected advantage to the inmates. After the famous "tunnelling out," by which so many effected their escape, the guards confessed that they had seen the fugitives, but supposed that they were their own men stealing the boxes! The tunnel, after running under the street, had its outlet near where the boxes were piled up.

All through the winter and late into the spring was this suffering, chiefly from hunger, prolonged. There is evidence of its continuance even so late as the month of May last.

Surgeon Ferguson, who was confined there at that time, gives a most painful picture of what he saw:

"No one can appreciate, without experience, the condition of the officers in the prison during the twelve days of my stay; their faces were pinched with hunger. I have seen an officer, standing by the window, gnawing a bone like a dog. I asked him, 'What do you do it for?' His reply was, 'It will help fill up.'"

"They were constantly complaining of hunger; there was a sad and insatiable expression of face impossible to describe."

There is no suffering that can be mentioned greater than that of the slow and lingering pains of famine, except it be perhaps the agonies of absolute death from hunger—but of this no Libby evidence was collected. The description of Libby life might therefore end at this point so far as having reached the climax of all possible misery on the one hand and of all possible barbarity on the other. But the testimony develops still other instances of cruelty which may as well be introduced here, in order to show the animus of the Confederate authorities.

CRUEL PUNISHMENTS.

It is stated that for offences, whether trivial or serious, the prisoners were consigned to cells beneath the prison, the walls of which were damp, green and slimy. These apartments were never warmed, and often so crowded that some were obliged to stand up all night. It was in these dungeons that the hostages were placed.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

But the inhumanity was not confined to the living. It extended even to the disposal of the dead. The bodies were placed in the cellar, to which the animals of the street had access, and very often were partly devoured by hogs, dogs and rats. The officers had the curiosity to mark the coffins in which they were carried off, to find out whether they were buried in them. But they proved to be only vehicles for bearing them away, returning a score of times for others.

This must have been the case with privates only, who occupied part of the prison, as it is mentioned that the officers generally secured by contributions, made up among themselves, me-

tallic coffins and a decent temporary deposit in a vault for those of their number who died, until they could be removed to the North.

One other incident may be noticed which is quite in keeping with all the rest, but without the foregoing catalogue of outrages to humanity would appear too shocking to be credible.

THE MINING OF LIBERTY.

At the time Kilpatrick made his nearly successful raid on Richmond, the city was thrown into a panic by his approach, and the prison officials deliberately prepared—so the story runs—a more expeditious way of closing the career of their prisoners. It was somewhat more merciful than starvation, because it substituted instantaneous death for an endless agony of dying. The negroes gave the first intimation to the captives of what was going on.* Richard Turner took care to dash the hopes of his captives as well as add to their anxiety, by informing them that "Should Kilpatrick succeed in entering Richmond, it would not help them, as the prison authorities would blow up the prison and all its inmates." Lieutenant Latonche was overheard observing to a rebel officer with whom he had entered the cellar where the two hundred pounds of powder were said to be placed, "There is enough there to send every damned Yankee to hell." Turner himself said, in the presence of Colonel Farnsworth, in answer to the question, "Was the prison mined?" "Yes, and I would have blown you all to Hades before I would have suffered you to be rescued." The remark of Bishop Johns is corroborative as well as curious, in reply to the question, "Whether it was a Christian mode of warfare to blow up defenceless prisoners!" "I suppose the authorities are satisfied on that point, though I do not mean to justify it."

The idea is so monstrously shocking that the mind hesitates to grasp it, or believe it. Many will try to see in it only a menace to deter any further attempt to take Richmond by a raid. And yet the evidence, even if it does come by rebel admissions, has an air of diabolical sincerity. A remark of Turner's justifying the act, which was mentioned to one of the Commissioners, but accidentally omitted in the formal testimony, gives quite a decided turn to the very natural probability that the fiendish plan was resolved upon: "Suppose Kilpatrick should have got in here, what would my life have been worth after you all got loose. Yes, I would have blown you all to Hades before I would have suffered you to be rescued." This was his argument and self-justification in brief, though somewhat more at length at the time.

The act was altogether consistent with the characters of the three men who had authority over the prison—General Winder, the Commander of the Department, Major Turner, Commander of the Prison, whose brutality is fully illustrated by his management of it, and Richard Turner, Inspector of the Prison, by occupation a negro-whipper, (see the testimony of Colonel Farnsworth), and whose savage nature vented itself in frequent acts of personal insult and physical violence toward the prisoners.

Be the story true or false, it is at any rate conspicuously befitting and consistent, inasmuch

as the strongest reasons for its probability may be derived from the other facts that have now been narrated. If true, it is strongly corroborative of the vindictive purpose which animates the Confederate authorities. History may yet write it so, and therefore the Commissioners do not pass it over in silence because of any doubt that may cling to it.

Let the spectacle that probably came so near taking place, be at least the appropriate crown and close of this portion of the narrative; the Union raiders, bounding over the fortifications of Richmond, intent upon rescuing their companions from a captivity worse than death—and the three great brick buildings lifted bodily into the air and let down in one stupendous crash and ruin upon the living forms of twelve hundred helpless men.

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* "Dug big hole down dar, massa. Torpedo in dar, sure!"

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For Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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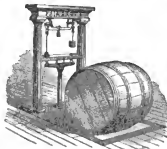
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Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	\$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 15, 1864.

No. 24.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 1307 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. Strong, 68 Wall street, New York, or No 1307 Chestnut street, Philadelphia,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.

VOL. I. No. 24

47

THE FUTURE.

"HITHERTO the Bulletin has been issued from New York, and as it has gone out through the several "Branches" to the remoter constituencies of the Commission, has done a good work.

Hereafter it will be distributed from the office of the "Canvassing and Supply Department" in Philadelphia, and it is hoped that a work no less useful, will be accomplished by it in the future. The Standing Committee has decided to associate it more intimately with the department for canvassing and supplies, as a natural and needful adjunct to the great work of the Commission among the people at home.

It may be well enough to inquire here, what this home-work is, and what responsibilities it involves?

Our duty to the soldier in the field, cannot be accomplished, without the co-ordinate efforts of the people, and that these efforts may be made to harmonize more efficiently with the established machinery of the Government, and with the Sanitary Commission as a civil arm of the Government, we propose that the thorough and systematic co-operation which has done so much in the past, be re-animated and strengthened afresh, for the few remaining months of the conflict.

The Commission is a representative agent, standing between the people and the army; its proper function being to administer good to the soldier from his home, and in so far as may be, from the soldier to his home.

To aid it in this generous service, the

land is filled with relief associations under a variety of names, which co-operate with the central "Branches" in the several States, collecting among themselves, and distributing, through the field-agents of the Commission, whatever may be gathered from the thousands of tributaries, that are instituted and fostered by the benevolence and patriotism of the people.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

We have a little army of associate members—men—men of intelligence and power, each one of whom should consider himself a centre of information, and of financial interest in behalf of the soldiers, and should feel the responsibility of his position. It is designed that the Bulletin shall go to each one of these gentlemen every fortnight, and ask him the question, *Are you doing your duty?*

The responsibility that attaches to such members of the Commission, when it is realized, will stimulate to energy and successful effort.

LADIES' AID SOCIETIES.

We have a still a larger army of associates, who are women—women of intelligence and power, of whom it may be said, that none ever before did so much for their country, as have the women of America done for this country; and though the history of time may not write what they have done, and are continuing to do, they will have within themselves the compensating reflection, that their record is on high. The Bulletin will visit them every fortnight to cheer them in their labors—to tell them what is being done with their contributions—to invite them to perseverance, faith, and hope, and to ask them to report through its columns what they may, of good in the cause.

CHURCHES.

We have an army of churches, through which much good has been accomplished in this behalf. The Bulletin will go to them by

their pastors, to thank them for what they are doing for the soldier; to thank them for sending so many good and true men to work through the Sanitary Commission, for the afflicted in hospitals, and the needy in trenches.

The history of the Commission, in all departments of the army, demonstrates the efficiency of scores of Christian students and ministers, as well as of devoted, religious laymen, who have, without ostentation and display, been doing a noble Christian service, the depth and purity of which can only be known to thousands of recipients. Continue in well-doing, will be the admonition of pastors, and good heed will be given to it by a liberal people.

Let us all shake hands—societies, churches, people, and agree to do our share to make the last winter of the war, the richest winter in good gifts to the soldiers, the noblest winter in good deeds by ourselves, the most glorious winter in the evidence of concentration and unity, power and victory.

DOLLARS AND LIVES.

In a recent letter from a friend of the soldier, in front of Petersburg, who asks for help, the following sentiment is expressed:

"I hope I shall never set dollars against lives."

Some people complain of taxation, high prices, and scarcity of labor, and thus excuse themselves for not doing what they are prompted to do for the army by their better natures. They set dollars against lives. They might retrench in their personal expenses—they might avoid at least one half their luxurious pleasures; give up their follies, and become wise enough, not to count dollars worth anything, except so far as they contribute to benefit the race.

False views of economy lead many into practices which tend to poverty; while a liberal and generous expenditure for good, multiplies the good to the giver, which it bestows upon them that need.

"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth;
And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but
it tendeth to poverty."

Let our friends throughout the country remember this lesson. They will be invited to continue their contributions as long as the war shall continue. The more they give, the more lives will be saved; the more men are saved, the sooner the war will end. When you are asked for dollars, or for what dollars represent in material, think of lives to be saved; if not saved—prolonged, if not prolonged—comforted. Scatter your dollars, and reap the increase. Withhold them not, that you may not be poor. If the Government is swept away, your dollars will all go too. If we save the Government by saving men to defend it, we keep our wealth, our honor and peace. Let us continue to clothe and comfort the sick and wounded with a generous hand, that in so doing, we may sustain the nation and ourselves.

TO THE LADIES.

COUNTY COUNCILS.—It is respectfully suggested to the Associate Managers of the United States Sanitary Commission in the several local organizations throughout the States, to call councils of their co-laborers in each county where there is a Society, for the purpose of considering their work, and the best means of securing permanent efficiency.

These are times when men are meeting together in convention, to consider plans for serving the country and perpetuating the Government, and why not women add the influence of their joint council in behalf of the same cause, by pledging themselves anew to the soldier, who claims at their hands a support which he can receive from no other source.

The moral power of the Ladies's Aid Societies throughout the country, is but too little estimated. Their value as a means of increasing true patriotism, of harmonizing discordant sentiments, and of promoting unity and concord at home, is not suffi-

ciently appreciated. The more frequently they meet, the more extensive their social intercourse, and the more fruitful their labors,—the more good will be done, not only to the sick and wounded, but to the cause of unity and liberty throughout the land. Already West Chester county in New York, and Susquehanna county in Pennsylvania, have moved in this direction, and we hope to see every county in all the loyal States, where societies exist, following in the same line of effort.

Call councils everywhere. Ask the co-operation of all Associate Members. Invite those who are not members to join with you. Bring together men, women and children, without respect to name or rank. Make offerings, great and small, not for veterans only, but for the new army of five hundred thousand men who have gone into the field, to endure hardships and exposures, to which they have been strangers hitherto.

A new army, and a new campaign, demand a re-organization at home, a fresh call for volunteers, and another *draft* upon the exhaustless patriotism and benevolence of our people.

Let it be made without delay.

LETTER FROM A CHAPLAIN.

The following is an extract of a letter from a Chaplain of the army, written while in hospital, where he is confined by illness:

Permit me also, through you, to thank the Sanitary Commission for the many favors received by me, both here and at Washington, while sick and needy. Had not this and kindred agencies, ministered to my necessities, the Lord only knows what I should have done.

I have not had an *extensive* acquaintance with this institution, but from what I have seen and experienced of its operations here, at Washington, and at White House Landing, Va., I know the U. S. Sanitary Commission is doing a great, and good, and noble work, and a work *indispensable* in the existing condition of our country. There is and must be, after all that is done to re-

lieve it, an immense amount of suffering; but oh! who can tell how much more there must have been but for this and other benevolent agencies through which the friends of our country, of God, and of humanity, are seeking to save life, relieve suffering, and bless our brave soldiers of the Army and sailors of the Navy. God bless the Sanitary Commission, and may its usefulness and its means of usefulness continue and increase, so long as this "cruel war" shall last, and until the thousands of suffering soldiers and sailors shall need it no longer.

LETTER FROM NEW JERSEY.

This week I have been in two churches, in one of which, they raised seventy-five dollars to be expended for flannels to make up into garments for the soldier. The ladies appear ready to go to work in good earnest. We have good congregations, and all appear resolved to aid in relieving the sick and wounded. One large gathering at a Sunday-school picnic, did a noble thing. There were eight or nine schools represented of different denominations, making an audience of about one thousand people. The parents and children of the whole surrounding country seemed to be on hand. The superintendents and officers, and teachers of each school, were organized into executive committees to take charge of the work in their respective localities. We had a very interesting time. * * * In another place, the people seemed prejudiced against the Sanitary Commission, but after presenting our cause, they resolved to get up a fair and festival, the avails of which have amounted to five hundred dollars, and will be equally divided between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions.

AN AMERICAN SCHOOL-BOY.

A contribution of five dollars to the Treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, has recently been received from James B. Meier, an American School-boy in Dusseldorf, Russia, through the President of the United States.

CHEER TO THE LADIES.

(From a clergyman of this city, who has been several weeks visiting the hospitals in front of Atlanta and along Sherman's whole line from Louisville southward, we have these words of cheer.)

* * * "I have now followed and carefully watched your supplies for the sick and wounded, from the time they leave your hands until they reach their destination. From close personal observation, I know their history in every particular, and I hope that I may be spared to return and report it.

"You need no exhortation, dear ladies, to perseverance in your blessed work. The Lord records it all, in his book of remembrance; and you will see, one day, how far you have been from over-estimating its practical benevolence. You are doing something, with God's blessing, to redeem war, even a necessary war, from utter barbarism."—*Cleveland Branch San. Com.*

HOSPITAL LETTER.

The following letter has been received at this office, and although it is but a repetition of testimony that is daily given, coming as it does from a hospital steward, who has peculiar opportunities for knowing what the soldiers get, it merits peculiar attention.

Having just been discharged from the service of the United States, where I have served for a period of three years and five months, I deem it my duty to make known the great benefit the Sanitary Commission has been to the army. It has to my own knowledge been the means of saving hundred of lives, by timely arrival of supplies for the sick and wounded.

I would particularly mention the first battle of Fredericksburg, fought in December, 1862, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and many others too numerous to mention. During General Grant's campaign in Virginia, the labors of this institution were unceasing, and with the necessary supplies furnished, when sorely needed, saved many lives. The Commission has also provided fresh vegetables for the army, which have done much during the past summer in preventing sickness. I would assure the Commission that the soldiers appreciate all that has been done. It would be out of my power to particularize all the many acts of kindness which the Commission has rendered to the soldiers in the field.

THE COMMISSION IN THE VALLEY.

The following extracts from letters indicate the care with which the interests of

the wounded in battle are guarded, by anticipating as far as possible their need. Dr. Jenkins, the General Secretary, and Mr. F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary for the East, with agents, who have been accustomed to such scenes, and others who are volunteers, are also present with ministrations of mercy to the brave men under the brave General Sheridan:

FROM G. A. MUHLECH.

HARPER'S FERRY, }
September 28, 1864. }

Our work in Winchester is fairly begun. The pressure on Sanitary Commission is truly immense. The Union Ladies' Association has commenced its noble task; the town has been divided in seven districts, and those ladies have selected their President for each ward. They alone draw from the Commission, and have commenced to do so yesterday. Miss Harris has been assigned to the Sheridan General Field Hospital (outside of the town); two fine large tents have been put at her disposal. I have sent her a small stock of such articles as she will mostly need in her *extra diet kitchen*. The surgeon in charge is profoundly thankful for her timely assistance. The intention of establishing a depot of supplies at Strasburg, for the convenience of our Field Agents, had to be given up. Mr. Smith is in charge of the storehouse, assisted by Col. Fach, who will relieve Mr. Blazier in the field. Messrs. Adams and Marsh are regular hospital visitors. Mr. Burdell, on a special and most pressing application of the Medical Director, has been appointed a temporary clerk to the vast Sheridan Hospital, where everything is yet in utter confusion.

MARTINSBURG, VA., }
Sept. 29, 1864. }

Two heavy car loads of stores were forwarded by me to this point yesterday.

We worked till late this night, unloading one of Adams' Express cars, and loading our own six wagons. As to forage, very little has come up yet, and with much difficulty I succeeded in drawing for 12 horses and 3 days. Captain May, Post Quartermaster, in this, showed me much kindness.

A train for Winchester will leave Mar-

tinsburg to-morrow. I will try and have our train ready to start with it. Mr. Bannister informed me by telegraph that three more agents had reached the Ferry. I telegraphed back to have them sent up here with the first freight train. I expect them every moment. One of the gentlemen will be temporarily assigned by me to remain and take charge of this post until I can make the selection. The building I have in use requires some repairs, and locks and keys. I shall leave sufficient funds in the hands of the agent for this purpose. Thus, if nothing happens, I shall reach Winchester to-morrow night. Our stores will hold out till then, and the goods I bring up constitute a large and well selected stock.

THE COMMISSION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

FROM GEORGE B. PAGE.

NEWBERN, N. C. DEPARTMENT, }
September 10th, 1864. }

* * * During the week I have received and stored a choice and timely invoice of stores shipped by Mr. Collins from New York.

Within this week we have issued thirty-eight requisitions, twelve to regular and general hospitals, one to naval hospitals, four to families and orphans of N. C. Union Volunteers, besides the disposition of an amount of green vegetables still furnished by the garden, consisting for the week of 10 bushels of tomatoes, 14 bushels potatoes, 12 melons, 6 bushels of beets, 1½ hushel gherkins, ½ hushel of green peas, ½ hushel okra, and 5,180 pounds marrowfat and Hubbard squash. The peas are the first fruit of a second crop from the same ground as the first, and matured for the table in forty-one days from the planting. The squash is not all issued, it seems a favorite vegetable on the fleet.

Mr. F. A. S. Perry, Relief Agent, arrived on the 8th, in good time for service on the new stores. There is an occasional demonstration of the enemy on our lines, but nothing serious. Refugees are coming into our lines in large numbers; some of them say they have been "in the bush" since '61, but are now hunted out by the severity of the rebel conscription. Some of them have made their way in from Wake and Chatham counties, and from beyond Raleigh. It is perhaps better to receive them thus, than to capture them after their willing

bullets have thinned our patriot ranks around Petersburg and Richmond.

The predictions of an unhealthy fall, seem to be realized. Some very malignant cases of bilious fever have occurred, mostly among refugees and poor natives in unfavorable locations in town.

I have the pleasure of enclosing a contribution from the gallant Captain Graham, of our North Carolina Rangers' Troop. The second contribution from the same magnanimous source.

NOTES FROM CITY POINT—T. C. PARRISH. A FORGERY.

My travelling companion, a gentleman of considerable prominence in the Commission, met with a lady in the greatest distress on account of a letter she had received from a friend of her husband, informing her that he was very ill, and not expected to live. She had come all the way from Indiana, and here she was at City Point, among strangers, not knowing how to act, and in the greatest tribulation. What was she to do? Heaven only knows what she would have done, had not the Sanitary Commission found her; she was a stranger, and we took her in, gave her a tent to herself, and fed her with the best at our command. We hunted the hospital through to find her husband, and were just about taking steps to seek him at the front, when she met with an old acquaintance, who told her that her husband was well; and on the next day we had the husband all safe and sound with his wife, and found that the letter was a *forgery*.

ARRANGEMENT OF HOSPITALS.

The general hospital here is divided into corps' hospitals, each having its own distinct officers. The corps hospitals are again sub-divided into wards, and the wards again into tents, each tent holding about twenty patients.

The Commission has a general storehouse in the shape of a barge, at City Point, and this storehouse is divided as the general hospital is, into corps storehouses, then again the stores are distributed through the different wards, by relief agents; and thus the supplies go from the loyal people of the North through these various avenues to the loyal soldiers of our Army. Then again, there are individual cases in hospital whom the light diet—light, in distinction from the heavy diet, or regular rations distributed

to well men, does not agree with. For these men the Commission has established a "Special Diet Kitchen," and from this all the delicacies at our command are carefully prepared and given out.

INCIDENTS.

I have lately been acting as a relief agent, and in the course of my rounds met with a great many interesting items. A good many of my colored men were in that desperate charge at Petersburg, in which so many a noble soldier, (colored though he was,) fell, struggling for the future of his race. They tell some wonderful stories about it, and it was undoubtedly one of the fiercest charges of the war. One old grey-headed man, said, "Massa, when I went in dar, I jes had these thoughts, tinks I, I mus kill dem Jonnys; I mus die, and I mus go to de heben." If prayers can avail anything, the friends of the Union may feel sure of its safety. One of the boys here told me the other day, "dat if praying to de good Lord were any help, Massa Lincoln would hab a heap on it."

TREATMENT OF REBELS.

We receive the Rebs and all, just as they come, believing that the golden rule "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you," does more towards winning back such men than all the cruelties to which our brave soldiers are subjected by the Southern chivalry.

LETTER FROM CITY POINT.

CITY POINT, VA.,
September 25, 1864. }

My mess here is with experienced surgeons of far more than ordinary character and professional ability, and conversation turns every day upon important matters touching their professional experience in the army; which, very often too, have direct or indirect reference to the work of the Sanitary Commission, in which my own interest is unabated. Though I hold no official relation with you, I cannot forbear recording and sending to you a fact, and an inquiry.

1. In a hospital, averaging over 500 patients for months past, there has been this season seen no case of scurvy; and very little, if anything, of scorbutic tendency and predisposition.

In the autumn of 1862, in the Shonandoah Valley, the same surgeons found, at one time, thirty men in a single regiment, suffering from well marked symptoms of

scurvy, and in five of them the disease fully developed; while in most of the numerous cases of sickness, the power of resistance to disease had been awakened and the controlling and restoring power of medicines greatly impaired by the scorbutic condition of the men generally. The men, they say, do not succumb to disease this year, as in other years, and they rally and recover more readily under proper medical treatment, and this after one of our hardest campaigns. I record only the spontaneous testimony of my medical friends here, when I tell you that they attribute much of this result to the large and constant supply of varied vegetable food supplied in the year past, both by the Government and the Sanitary Commission.

2. *Per contra.* The testimony of all observers here, as well as at the South and Southwest, is, that the mortality among the colored troops is, relatively to that among white soldiers (where both have the same shelter and equal medical attendance) alarmingly in excess.

These gentlemen, after making all proper (and very great allowance) for the morbid depression which always succeeds in the uneducated negro to the loss or suspension of physical health and enjoyment, yet suggest the inquiry—whether the same pains have been taken and the same success obtained, in supplying the prophylactic diet referred to above, to the colored as to the white men?

I am very authentically informed, too, to-day, on the testimony of a Virginian, long familiar with the region along the James and Appamatox, that the peculiar malaria of these farms has been proverbially fatal to black men. These hints suggest inquiries which all of us may further prosecute. I will do my part.

J. V. VAN INGEN.

The greater mortality of colored troops, under similar circumstances of diet and exposure with white troops, is an interesting inquiry for physiologists and philanthropists. It is well known that the percentage of death among negroes in penitentiaries is in excess of white prisoners, with the same treatment.

We doubt very much if the difference in the army is accounted for by any lack of care of negro troops.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The inquiry is sometimes made, "Why need there be two Commissions to do the same work?" This is a reasonable inquiry, demanding a fair consideration and a just answer. Coincident with the commencement of the war, the U. S. Sanitary Commission was organized, embracing in its various branches men and women of all political and religious creeds, of all professions and occupations in business, and assuming a broad, national, catholic character, went forth to its noble service. It had to do with an American army, collected from all parts of the loyal North, and representing every branch of industry, every phase of social life, and all forms of religious faith. It grew up, on this mixed idea, and has spread its influence into almost every family, asking the people to feel and to give, and to labor for the soldiers, as it is our privilege to labor for brothers standing between our hearthstones and fields of blood, to defend the institutions of civil and religious liberty, which have been the boast of our government from its natal day until now. In our brother soldiers it recognized human frailty that needed support, moral weakness that needed succor, spiritual life that needed quickening, and physical suffering that claimed our most earnest sympathy and faithful care; and, so far as the people have furnished means, the extended agencies of the Commission have employed them for the entire good of the army and navy. It has never made the teaching of religious doctrines, *as such*, a part of its system, because it is not a church organization, but it has made the *practical* illustration of Christian faith by Christian works its crowning glory. A soldier who is sick in hospital receives the ministration of kindness from a visitor who soothes his pains, calms his fears, writes to his home, supplies his present wants, and points him to future good, as the ministrations of Christian sympathy and fraternal interest. He need not be told that a Christian band grasps his

own, or that the voice that speaks to him words of cheer, is a Christian's voice. He realizes in himself, and for himself, the influence and inspiration of kindness, whether it be in a touch, a look, a word, or the simplest effort to relieve. And so, the Sanitary Commission, as it has distributed food, clothing, and literature—by the ton and cargo—to the army and navy, for more than three years past, has not failed to make a record rich in Christian effort and fruit, unknown in other lauds or in other periods of the world, and unequalled in this.

Why, then, should there be two Commissions?

There need not be. There should not be. The cause of unity and fraternity would be benefitted it seems to us, by one grand, unbroken, and indivisible congress of men, women and children, all joined heart to heart, and hand to hand, in sustaining, by their example in benevolent effort, the common principle of union, for which our armies are battling.

But we are glad to chronicle the fact indicated by the little circular which is appended. It is a move in the right direction. We are glad to see that our friends of the Christian Commission are beginning to realize the wisdom and economy of a union arrangement. Besides being the cheapest and most efficient plan, it promotes concord and good fellowship. Let the example of the Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission be followed by others.

The following certificate is given to the delegates of Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission, and on another page of the same sheet, the order of the General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission appears:

TO ANY AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES
SANITARY COMMISSION.

Please honor the within if presented
by

Delegate holding Commission No.

President Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission.
Brooklyn, 186

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
823 BROADWAY,
New York, Sept. 14, 1864.

To the Agents of this Commission: The President of the Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission is fully authorized to draw on you in favor of the Delegate named on the opposite page, for such Stores and Supplies as he may require to distribute to the Soldiers for whom he ministers, subject to your rules of supply as to quantity. You will honor his drafts, taking his acknowledgement for the articles supplied.

General Secretary.

**MASS. SURGEON-GENERAL AND THE U. S.
SANITARY COMMISSION.**

The following is taken from a report made to Wm. F. Dale, M.D., Surgeon-General of Massachusetts, by Geo. H. Gay, M.D., Chairman of a committee of surgeons sent to Washington to inquire into the condition and wants of Massachusetts troops in hospital there.

What I saw of the practical working of this association at Washington and its neighborhood, demands that a few words should be said in relation to it.

The operations of its different departments are on an immense scale. The officers, executive and others, seem to have fully comprehended the magnitude of the field for the labor. Systematized, disciplined and with a head, their movements proceed as with a knowledge of what is to be done, and of the material to do it with.

The amount of actual benefit and comfort to the wounded soldier, to the sick soldier, and to the destitute soldier, since the war commenced, would, if known, be truly enormous, and a thing unheard of in all previous wars. It was not an unusual thing to see surgeons, chaplains, and others, make application for the relief of whole regiments, companies, and individuals; and on making the requisition over to Mr. Knapp, he would immediately issue the various articles, and in frequent instances would transport them in their own wagons. By application of proper persons, at proper places, nearly all wants could be supplied. What they have, they give freely; what they have not, they will try to get.

The degree of suffering to our soldiers, if this Association were (?) contracted in its means, and limited in its facilities, would be wholly incaleculable.

Willingly are its benefits bestowed upon all. The States, one and all, are therefore interested in its active continuance. Contributions constantly and freely will be needed, in money, and whatever may alleviate the hardships of a soldier's life, whether on the battle-field, in camp, or in hospital.

There was no way for me to get, without delay, transportation for the articles needed by the First Massachusetts Regiment. On talking with Mr. Knapp, he promptly and without hesitation sent them in two of their own wagons.

Is was a gratification to Drs. Buckingham, Thaxter, and myself, to witness the feelings of the soldiers as they saw the wagons come up. Many said, "God bless the ladies and all who remember us?"

With this knowledge of the doings of this body, I felt nothing better could be done with our goods, after we had drawn all we needed, and given an order to supply any wants of Dr. Ellis, than to divide the remainder between this Commission and the younger, but excellent Association for the Relief of Massachusetts Soldiers.

It is perfectly safe to say that the Sanitary Commission have been, and will be, good managers. Give largely to them, for our soldiers will need largely. Spread freely and widely the knowledge of this charity among our soldiers, so that they may feel that if they will only ask they will receive.

A CALL FROM BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION.

No. 18 WEST STREET, }
Boston, Oct. 3d, 1864. }

To the People of New England:—We have long desired to send through New England, agents, who, having had personal knowledge of the Sanitary Commission, should be able to speak of it to the people. Our own experience and judgment tell us how desirable this is, if we would understand the matter thoroughly; for the labors of the Commission extend from the humblest service a man can render to his brother, to the highest ministrations offered to the souls of the sick, suffering, dying men.

The testimony of our correspondents to

the value of the Bulletin and other Commission publications is very strong, but many speak also of the need of the living voice to answer questions that the printed page has not sufficiently discussed, to meet uncertainties that must arise in reference to a work so far away; and in general to confirm and illustrate the records and reports which cannot cover half the ground. And in spite of the impossibility of bringing the scenes of the battle-field and hospital before our eyes, with their double lessons of suffering and relief we all crave, and shall as long as we are human, we seek as near an approach to this as may be possible.

We are, therefore, very glad to be able to inform the friends of the great cause, in New England, that a system of lecturing has just been organized, which promises to meet the needs partially, if not fully. And we beg all persons interested to help on the undertaking.

The agents will be furnished with credentials from the Central Office, and from this Branch. And they and we, cordially invite suggestions and criticism, as well as hearty co-operation.

Very respectfully, ABBY W. MAY,
Chairman Executive Committee.

IN HOSPITAL.

Speaking of games and puzzles for hospitals, I am reminded of an incident which, having occurred some time ago, although in this Department, it will be no harm now to relate. But I will preface it by saying, that when a change of surgeons in charge of a hospital takes place, it sometimes happens that the new incumbent feels so strong a desire that *his* peculiar presence shall be felt, that he will make some changes, though they may not always be for the best. Now it happened that in a certain gangrene hospital a change occurred. The retiring surgeon was a man of large heart and cheerful disposition. He thought that one of the best means of improving the health of his patients was to interest and amuse their minds, and thus turn their thoughts from their own sufferings. To this end he obtained from the Sanitary Commission a quantity of checker-boards, and a quantity of soft, red cedar, leaving it to the ingenuity of the men to make the two acquainted. It was not long before every man was whittling and *whistling*; and soon not only checkers and chess-men were plentiful, but occasional exquisite specimens of each were

seen, as well as all kinds of wooden *bijouterie*.

Among other things a certain Lieutenant, who had been by profession a carver in wood, being desirous of showing his gratitude to the little daughter of his General, who had visited him with several acts of kindness, carved with his knife a most exquisite chain, one end of which was adorned with little charms or amulets, and the other with a cage, within which a bird sat perched upon his ring. This was sent by the surgeon's hand to the little girl. It was gratefully received, and handsomely acknowledged by the parents, as something which would be highly prized. Shortly after the surgeon referred to was relieved for another post, and a new one took his place, and he determined that *changes* must take place. He looked around, and his eye lighted on the checker-boards, and whittling, (every man having been provided with a newspaper, whereon to whittle). "Take these things away," he said, "he was not going to have his hospital littered up with such things," and "he did not believe in them." A few weeks had passed away, when the General met and made inquiries of the former surgeon, who was still in the room, if he knew how his young friend, the Lieutenant, was getting on? "Very badly, sir." "Why what is the matter?" "He is pining away for something to do!" "Why, cannot he amuse himself any longer with his carving and whittling?" "That is forbidden and taken away from them all, sir." "Taken away! For what?" "I do not know, sir." The General elevated his eyebrows, and turning his head toward the door of the next room, where his Medical Director sat, he called out, "Dr. P——!" The Doctor appeared. "Dr. P——, tell that——fool at No.—to let his men have all the checkers and the whittling that they want." The order was given, and the men began at once to improve, although they probably never knew that they were indebted in any way to my friend Dr. W., or to the momentary indignation of General Rosecrans.—*Sanitary Reporter*.

A HOSPITAL VISITOR'S FAREWELL.

Rev. Mr. Ingraham, who has served the Sanitary Commission for a year past, as Hospital Visitor, thus closes his last letter regarding his work in Nashville. We take

the extract from the *Sanitary Reporter* of October 1st:

And this week closes a full year of service in the U. S. Sanitary Commission, a Commission which stamps this age and generation of evil war and bloodshed with mercy's seal. In this great fratricidal war, the pure stream of benevolence and love has flowed beside, and mingled its life-giving waters with the nation's mighty waves of treasure and of blood.

And if a cup of cold water given on behalf of Christ shall be rewarded, what showers of blessings must this country yet receive for the countless gifts of mercy and of love which have been devoted with earnest prayers to God. Not one of them is lost. Every one may not have reached its destination. Some few here and there may have been altogether directed from their course, but each one has, nevertheless, fulfilled a blind mission, for it left the hands of its donor—the soldier's mother, brother, sister, wife, or friend, warm with love and prayers to Him who will answer them in blessings on our land—"on ourselves, and on our children."

This past year will be an oasis in my life, a year of blessings to my own heart, in being privileged to convey blessings from hearts at home to those around me here. There have been indeed all about me clouds of sorrow and of suffering, but in this work the sunshine of home, which has come into hospital surrounding like a halo every gift of love, has intermingled with them all. Aside from this, the many warm true hearts, who, have been engaged around me in these "Sanitary" labors, have enriched my own "treasury of friends" whose names will always remind me, that the field of suffering is also mercy's harvest-field, where sometimes both men and angels work together, and where one's heart must realize the truth, *that it is more blessed to give than to receive.*

TESTIMONIAL FROM LIEUT. COL. SUMMERS, MEDICAL INSPECTOR, U. S. A.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Aug. 24, 1864.

Dr. L. Lewis Coxe, U. S. Sanitary Inspector for the Valley of the Mississippi:

DEAR SIR—In reply to your request, asking what my observations had been in my tours of inspection regarding the distribution and use made of the "people's" gifts through the Sanitary Commission, I take

pleasure in stating, that I have almost always found more or less, and generally a liberal supply of them in the General Hospitals in this city, and in those at Vicksburg and Natchez, as well as the regimental hospitals (in the camps) at the two latter places.

With the occasional exception, which occurs in camps, they invariably reach their proper destination, and are consumed by those for whom they are intended. I take pleasure in making this statement, for the reason that the impression has been made to a very considerable extent, that the medical officers, on duty in general hospitals, get and consume the lion's share of them. I know that this is not the case where I have inspected, for the officers board only in the cities, and the exception is only where the hospital is isolated and at a distance from such accommodations.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE RELIEF SOCIETIES OF WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM COUNTIES, N. Y.

The second Council of the Soldier's Relief Societies of the counties of Westchester and Putnam, convened pursuant to adjournment at Sing Sing on the 4th day of October, at half-past twelve o'clock, P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Pierre Van Cortlandt, and Mrs. G. Hilton Scribner was appointed Secretary. The Roll of the Societies was then called, when it was found that the Societies of the following places were represented by delegates in the Council, viz:

Garrison, 3 delegates, Mrs. H. W. Belcher, Mrs. J. M. Knox, and Mrs. W. S. Livingston.

Peekskill, 6 delegates, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Mills, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Hussey, Mrs. Ferris, and Mrs. Abbot.

Tarrytown Union Relief Society, 3 delegates, Mrs. Wilsey, Mrs. Wilson, and Miss Wilson.

Soldier's Aid Society, 2 delegates, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Dodd.

Yorktown, 1 delegate, Mrs. White.

Plym Bridge, 5 delegates, Mrs. E. Reynolds, Mrs. Ira Purdy, Mrs. Lawrence Bostwick, Mrs. Horace Baker, and Mrs. J. Reynolds.

Yonkers, 5 delegates, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Scribner, Mrs. Davidson, and Miss Walsh.

Irvington, 5 delegates, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Woodford, Mrs. Cusby, Miss Irving, and Mrs. Sturgis.

White Plains, 4 delegates, Mrs. J. J. Clapp, Mrs. John Miller, Miss Silliman, and Mrs. Underhill.

Harrison, 3 delegates, Mrs. David Haviland, Mrs. Joseph Park, and Miss Emily Carpenter.

The Societies of Dobb's Ferry and Somers were represented by delegates, but did not give a list of their names to the Secretary. The Society of Sing Sing did not send delegates, but attended en masse. The Societies of Cold Spring, Mamaroneck, and Bedford, were represented by report, but not by delegation. The Societies generally seem to be working with renewed energy; some of them have accomplished much more during this quarter than any other of their existence. The Council feels assured of the salutary influence of their meetings. One of the Societies has a valuable auxiliary, in a class of district school scholars, who meet with them, and learn the art of sewing, as well as contributing their work to the parent society.

After the reading of the reports, the President introduced Dr. Parrish, of Philadelphia, who stated that he had seen the working of the Commission both at home and in the field. He knew something of the wants of the army, and wished to say to the Council first, that many of the Societies were suffering for the want of proper organization; that concentrated action was much more efficient than desultory efforts. He stated among other things that our supplies go mostly to the Shenandoah Valley and City Point. He then explained to the Council from a diagram he had drawn on the black board, the complete workings of the Commission on the field, and marked out the channel in which the stores are carried forward until they reach the needy soldiers. He wished most emphatically to contradict the reckless assertion that Stewards and Surgeons appropriate the stores; there had been isolated cases of this kind, but they were exceptional, and the parties were, as soon as discovered, subjected to examination and discipline. The Dr. was interrogated as to whether the Government did not supply the needed stores, to which he replied, that their regulations were made before there was any such pressing demand as now; that they did not issue flannel garments, and that the delicacies so needful for the sick were not administered in field hospitals in quantities com-

mensurate with the demand. He believed that the ladies were doing more towards cementing our divided country, than was being accomplished through other instrumentalities; and that if we should stop the supplies we should lose our hold upon the soldier's hearts, our influence over them, and sever the tie between the liberty-loving sisters at home and their brothers on the field. He wished there might be no factions, but that in a benevolent enterprise all differences of opinion might be forgotten, and a perfect unity of labor and feeling maintained in this grand work of humanity and Christian love. The Dr. in answer to an inquiry, assured the Council that laundries had been established in the army, that the clothing of the men might not be wasted. He then gave the Council some details of the deleterious influence of the State agencies, sent out to find their own State soldiers to the neglect of others. He encouraged the members of the various Societies to stand by each other, and to renew their exertions, and alluded to the fact that there were now five hundred thousand more fresh troops to work for, and that we, and not they, were the recipients of the greater good.

Mr. Hepburn was then introduced. He said he had just returned from the front, and was glad to have an opportunity to give the Council a glimpse of his experience. He had visited many soldiers, conversed with them personally, and had never known but few cases of ingratitude, and those had been where, for instance, the soldiers would not accept one lemon unless they could have three, and sugar enough to make them palatable. In most cases, however, they expressed much gratitude, and in one instance, a destitute soldier sent by him a donation of one dollar to the Sanitary Commission. He was gratified to see the better side of human nature manifested among the soldiers, and also, that they appreciated what was being done for them.

The President then offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

"Resolved, That we hereby renew our pledges to our country, our army and navy, and to each other, by agreeing to renew our exertions in their behalf through the Aid Societies which we severally represent.

"Resolved, That we recommend all the organizations now existing in Westchester and Putnam counties to double their dili-

gence, and secure during the coming winter larger returns from our patriotic people than ever before, which we will send to soldiers so much in need of them."

A discussion then ensued relative to our next place of meeting. It was thought advisable to meet with some Society on the eastern side of the county, after an interval of six months instead of three months, as formerly. The Council then adjourned, to meet on the first Tuesday of April next, with the Society at White Plains. After the adjournment, the President informed us that Miss Collins and Miss Schuyler, of the Women's Central Relief Association, of New York, as well as the other two Associate Managers were present, and would most willingly give the ladies any information pertaining to the work that they might desire. She next invited the Council to partake of an ample collation spread for their benefit in a room below, consisting of all the delicacies of the season, and so tastefully arranged as to tempt the most fastidious epicure. The ladies of Sing Sing did themselves great credit in preparing this repast, and deserve the cordial thanks of every one present for the manner in which the Council was entertained. After many words of cheer, of comfort, and plans for future usefulness the Council dispersed, feeling that the day's experience had been to their patriotism a fresh baptism, and that they were severally pledged and consecrated anew to the great good work until "grim visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front," and there are no more wan, emaciated faces calling to us from a thousand couches, but all our brave boys are gathered to their hearthstones; and peace—an honorable peace, without taint or blemish hovers over our land.

MRS. PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT,

President.

MRS. G. HILTON SCRIBNER,

Secretary.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY INCIDENT.

Among the interesting incidents that have transpired in the history of aid societies, we extract the following from the report of the late Council held at Sing Sing, N. Y.:

A woman sat busily plying her needle at one of the society meetings, when she heard for the first and only time in her life, an article read from the *Bulletin*. It was an article in reference to the Hospital

Directory. She immediately thought of a poor suffering friend who had not heard from her husband in many long months, and who knew of no way to get information concerning him. She communicated with her friend who immediately wrote to Washington and learned that her husband had sickened, died, and been buried a month. It was sad intelligence; but for the consolation of knowing where and how he died, she will ever feel deeply indebted to the Sanitary Commission.

"SUFFER MOST—LOVE MOST."

In a quiet neighborhood, where there was more latent than practical patriotism, one earnest woman succeeded, by her energy, in awakening an interest in behalf of the country and our soldiers. The clergyman of the village opened his house to this patriot woman, and all the people vied with each other in the service of preparing comforts for the soldiers. They started on blackberry brandy and cordial, and succeeded in making 76 gallons. One night after the clergyman and family had retired, they were aroused by some one trying to gain admittance; they found upon opening the door, a humble man who was not willing to give his name, but said that his children had picked some berries for the soldiers, and that he had brought them after his day's work was done, a distance of six miles. It was subsequently ascertained that this man had been drafted while the three hundred dollar exemption clause was in force. With him there was no alternative. His family must starve if he left them. He therefore sacrificed everything, save the bare necessities of life to raise the three hundred dollars. His children were stripped of every article of clothing save one suit each, and when during this time of rigid economy and trial, another child was born, it had literally "nothing to wear." Still this family have grown strong through suffering, and learned that they who for their country's sake suffer most, love her most.

VOICES FROM THE COUNTRY.

MADISON Co., N. Y.—The ladies are desirous to work, only waiting to know what to do and how to do it. Under the auspices of Mrs. Charles Mason, newly appointed

Associate Manager for this county, Madison will render a favorable account of itself hereafter.

HERKIMER Co., N. Y.—The rural districts of Herkimer are ready for organization. The patriotism of the people is alive. They will be at work soon.

CHENANGO Co., N. Y.—Ladies greatly interested in the work. Twenty-one new Aid Societies have been formed, from whom most encouraging results will be seen. Everywhere there is a willingness to act. Meetings are large. Families go together in large wagons five and six miles to attend, notwithstanding the busy season among the farmers.

OTSEGO Co., N. Y.—In every town visited there is the most hearty response to the claims of the Commission, and the assurance is given that the labors of the societies shall be continued while the war lasts.

WOODBURY, N. J.—Little Jersey is full of vigor. The court house in Woodbury was crowded to excess a few nights since, and a new spirit infused into the societies.

BLACKWOODTOWN, N. J.—Here the work is reviving. The ladies are active, energetic and true. The cause is alive in the hearts of the people, and hearts give activity to hands. Both together will do a good work.

BEVERLY, N. J.—Beverly is awake. The ladies have done generous things for the hospital that is located in that thriving town, and from it will go out an influence that will find its place in the hospitals on the Appomattox and in the valley.

SUSQUEHANNA Co., PA.—A grand re-animation is going on in this county. You will hear greater things from the bills and hamlets of Susquehanna for the future, than you have heard in the past.

EVERYWHERE the work is going on, and a new life is being infused into the Societies. Let all be encouraged and continue to work in faith.

LETTERS FROM THE WEST.

LEAVENWORTH, }
Sept. 10, 1864. }

Dr. J. S. Newberry, Associate Secretary, Western Department, U. S. Sanitary Commission.

DEAR SIR:—I am happy to be able to say that your prediction that the Freedmen's Aid Societies would come forward and take the work as soon as the Sanitary agents should by necessity commence it, proves to be so, and I have already some help, and soon hope to be relieved from everything but my regular Sanitary work. Our hospitals are well filled, but we have not had so much hard sickness as we anticipated from the most intense heat I have ever experienced. The thermometer has stood at 110 in the shade, with hot winds, for several days. Our soldiers have been on hard scouting duty, and many have been taken sick and left in the country at private houses. Colonel Ford was at Leavenworth last week, and I fitted him out with supplies for his sick, to be disbursed by his wife.

Yours truly,
J. A. BROWN.
Relief Agent.

BROWNSVILLE, Ark., }
Sept. 12, 1864. }

H. M. Way, Esq., Agent Sanitary Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 23d ult. was received several days ago, but incoherent labors have prevented its acknowledgment before. Everything killed has been received, except the 150 pounds dried fruit—a serious loss. The supplies were very acceptable indeed. We have still on hand a large part of the bedding, under-clothing, and some other things. As we are under marching orders, I expect to turn over what is left to General Hospital at the Bluffs—this will depend somewhat upon the disposition we make of our sick. Nothing shall be lost if I can prevent it. But it is a very difficult matter to appropriate judiciously and economically such supplies while we are moving from post to post at short intervals. I wish I had time to express to you in a deliberate and proper manner how much I think the service owes in gratitude, life, health, and comfort, to this stupendous charity. This word "Sanitary" has a world of significance to the sick soldier. "If I only had a can of tomatoes," or "some dried fruit," or "a cotton shirt," or "a pair of drawers," or "a bottle of blackberry wine," or "some soda crackers, I should be so

glad!" Poor fellows! their wants are often supplied, and they are often made glad by the almost omnipresence of the Sanitary Agent. And it is no random remark, to say that thousands of lives are annually saved to the army through this instrumentality.

De Falls Bluffs is an important point. The Little Rock railroad taps White River here. Most of the army supplies shipped to this department are here transferred from steamers to cars. A general hospital of large proportions must be established, and many invalids will here be congregated. St. Charles, eighty miles below, and on the river, is also a point that will require a constant garrison, though on White River, it is quite isolated, and liable to be overlooked. Brownsville is a station on the railroad midway between De Falls Bluffs and Little Rock, some twenty-five miles from either place. It is also a point of importance in the protection of the road, and as a base of supplies to a considerable scope of country between the Arkansas and White Rivers. But I write in great haste and amid much confusion, and will therefore conclude by thanking you for your promptness in responding to my application for supplies in behalf of the sick of this command. I am, very respectfully,

L. DYN,

Surgeon 31st Illinois Vols., and Surgeon in Chief Division 17th A. C.

SOLDIER'S HOME,
Camp Nelson, Ky., Oct. 1, 1864. }

Dr. J. S. Newberry, Secretary, Western Department U. S. Sanitary Commission.

DEAR SIR:—I have much pleasure in forwarding the following report of the labors of the past month at the Home:

Meals, . . . 12,807 Lodgings, . . . 5,995

During the first three weeks of the month we were by no means crowded—still, in such an establishment, there is always plenty of work; for the past ten days we have been exceedingly busy, and from present prospects we shall be fully employed during this month. The Home has now been in full operation seven months, and thousands of soldiers who have enjoyed the comforts and cleanliness of the sleeping arrangements, and the simple and well prepared meals, continually write to me that they will always remember the Soldier's Home at Camp Nelson with pleasure.

At this period of the history of the Home, it is very gratifying to the hearts of all who

are concerned, to know that such a multitude of needy soldiers have found a "home indeed" within the walls of the most inviting scene of Camp Nelson. We are now thoroughly renovating the inside and outside of the Home. The Post Commandant has ordered and the Quartermaster has furnished a very important service in that direction, and I doubt not we shall receive still further the requisites for the preservation of the building and the comfort of the inmates. During the summer the "Home" has been visited by people from "near and far,"—and has been the greenest "oasis" to citizen and soldier in the now almost grassless waste of the camp. We have endeavored—with great labor,—to make the Home picturesque as well as comfortable in every particular, so that hundreds of attachments for the place have arisen in the hearts of soldiers who have sojourned here, and will possibly continue long after the war has ceased. We are now replenishing the beds, and in a few days will commence renewing the whitewashing. Captain Hall has had a new roof put on every building, and will, undoubtedly, continue to us his valuable interest and assistance in our work. We are now prepared for the necessities of the winter. Since the Home was opened, at the end of September, we have furnished Meals, . . . 154,776 Lodgings, . . . 50,775 The foregoing facts are sufficient to establish among the friends of the soldier the reputation which he takes with him to, and establishes, in the front of the army.

There is a chapter in the history of this Home, which I have reason to believe is already recorded in the office of the Adjutant General of the United States,—and which, although it cost much that was arduous and disagreeable, will redound to the honor of the country, and prove that the work of the Commission has not been in vain in Camp Nelson. A home was here furnished to hundreds of the colored recruits which they could not obtain elsewhere, likewise protection against the force employed daily to return them to bondage. This Home was not assuredly erected in vain. In the department of stores, we have done our utmost to supply the wants of the hospitals, regiments, and individual soldiers. There is a school here for colored soldiers, under the superintendence of the Rev. J. G. Fee, which from its commencement three months ago, to the present time, has been supplied by us with nearly everything which

it required. From the Kentucky branch U. S. Sanitary Commission, I obtained for it a good assortment of school requisites, and have freely supplied it with stationery, and sundry other stores. The wants of the hospitals and entire camp are still urging us to ask for "more stores"—vegetables especially. Yours truly,

THOMAS BUTLER.

GOOD NEWS FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

It having been currently stated that General Sherman would not permit civilians, (even Agents of the Sanitary Commission,) to go beyond Nashville, and that in consequence, supplies could not be forwarded to supplement the governmental issues, all will be glad to know that whatever obstructions may have been in the way hitherto, the road to Atlanta is now open, the stores of the Commission are going forward in large quantities, and the work is progressing finely. General Sherman is not the man to allow his troops to suffer.

THE CLAIM AGENCY IN THE WEST.

Some months ago the Commission established a Claim Agency in Louisville, the aim of which has been to give gratuitous aid to Soldiers, Soldier's widows and orphan children in the prosecution of claims against the Government.

The Agency is intended for just those who cannot help themselves, who do not know how to reach the hand of the Government, which only waits to recognize them in order to do them justice.

Annexed is a statement of the business transacted there during August, and an estimate of the amount it would have cost if transacted by individual claim agents :

34 claims for arrears pay and bounty at \$20 each	\$680
27 " " Pension, " "	540.
2 " " Prize Money, " "	40
1 " " Bounty, " "	10
1 " " Horses lost in Service, " "	15
Total,	\$1,285

YOUNG VETERAN HEROES.

That the good people at home may know the character of some of the boys who wear the shirts sent by the Sanitary Commission, allow me to give a short history of two of

them who came to the Nashville office yesterday, each to ask for a shirt.

James M. Anderson, of Company D, 39th Ohio Veteran Infantry, lived in Miami Town, Hamilton county, Ohio. He enlisted as a private in February 1862, and has served with his regiment in nine pitched battles. When he enlisted he was fourteen years and four months old. He re-enlisted as a veteran in December, 1863, was shot through the right arm at Ross' Mills, Georgia, July 4th, 1864, and his arm amputated above the elbow the next day. He went home on furlough, and is now on his way back to join his regiment. His knapsack has been stolen, and he asks the Sanitary Commission for a shirt and a pair of socks, which are given him. He says, "if I have lost my arm I can cook or do some other service for a man who can carry a musket, and I don't want to be discharged till the war is over."

Robert Zine, drummer, Company C, 18th Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, has his home in Edgewood, Effingham County, Illinois. He enlisted in September, 1861, being then ten years and six months old. At the battle of Shiloh, April 7, 1862, he was shot through the right leg above the ankle, was in the hospital for nine weeks, and then returned to duty. He has been in seven battles. He enlisted as a veteran in March, 1864, and came from Marietta, Georgia, to Nashville a few days since in charge of wounded men. He has been at home but once since his first enlistment.

Both of these boys wear the star of honor, and one of them, a medal given him by his regiment for good conduct. Robert had but one shirt, and that was in rags, and wanted another, which was furnished him. Although he is recovered from the wound of the leg, the scars are plain, and he says that sometimes on the march the left leg pains him so that he is obliged to ride in a wagon.

Both of these young heroes are at the Soldiers' Home, where their good conduct and quiet behavior, are marked by every one. Such are some of "Our Boys!"

B. W.

NASHVILLE, September 6, 1864.

OUR SOLDIERS.

The following communication was made to one of the New York city religious papers, by a physician, L. P. Brackett, M.D., not

connected with either the Sanitary or Christian Commissions, but who, visiting the West on private business, was led both by professional taste and a desire to see for himself the condition of the soldiers and their needs, to visit the hospitals and Soldiers' Homes of the principal Western cities.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—You ask me to give you some incidents which came under my observation during a late visit to the hospitals and "Soldiers' Homes" of the West. It gives me great pleasure to comply with this request. It was my good fortune to be brought into contact with about four thousand five hundred of these noble fellows, a part of them in the hospitals, and many others who were on their way home on furlough, or discharged from severe wounds. Some of them were undoubtedly suffering severely (one died upon a train on the Jeffersonville road, on which I was journeying), but from none of them did I ever hear a word of complaint or a groan. Their fortitude was wonderful.

A MOTHER AND SON.

One poor fellow, apparently not more than eighteen years of age, was at the Soldiers' Home in Louisville, where his mother had brought him from the front after the terrible battle of the 22d of July, near Atlanta. He was terribly wounded, and was evidently dying. The poor mother, whose heart seemed bound up in her son, had succeeded in getting him thus far over that long five hundred miles of railroad, and with all a woman's courage and fortitude, she was striving, evidently against her own convictions, to encourage him. "Come, sonny," she said, "take a little of this cordial; it will help to strengthen you, so that you can get home to-night, and then we'll cure you up." The eye was fast glazing, the jaw had begun to fall, and the dark shadow had come over brow and cheek; he could not swallow, but with great effort, looking up to her, he whispered, "Dear mother." An hour later he was dead, and that loving, heroic mother, did bring her boy home that night, but it was in a coffin.

ANOTHER.

Another, whom I found on the Jeffersonville cars, wounded through the lungs, and who had fainted from the heat and closeness of the locked cars, was brought to consciousness after considerable effort, but was evi-

dently fast sinking. As he lay with his head on my breast, having learned how severe and complicated were his wounds, I said to him: "You should not have left the Soldiers' Home at Louisville. You were not able to take this journey." "I know it," he whispered; "but I did want to see my mother so." Poor fellow! that privilege was denied him, for he died before reaching Indianapolis.

INTEMPERANCE AND PROFANITY.

I found far less of intemperance or profanity among the soldiers than I had expected. In traveling in the cars with them for four days, and mingling freely among them, I heard but a single oath from a soldier's lips, and in that case the swearer was an officer. In the case referred to above of the wounded soldier on the Jeffersonville road, I sent the nurse through the train—five of the cars being filled with soldiers—to endeavor to get some stimulant or cordial to administer to the poor sufferer, but not a drop could be found on board. I saw but one drunken soldier, and he was in St. Louis, and the conductor said was a deserter.

TESTIMONY OF SOLDIERS

I found abundant evidence that the Sanitary Commission was doing a world of good among the soldiers, and that its labors are highly appreciated by them. Its officers and agents have been most indefatigable in their work in the Western army, and it is the testimony of soldiers, officers, and surgeons, that they have saved thousands of lives and an untold amount of suffering. I had the opportunity of an extended acquaintance with Dr. Newberry, the Western Secretary of the Commission, and with Dr. A. N. Read, their Medical Director with Sherman's army, and both noble, devoted, Christian men, who have left large and lucrative practices, one in Cleveland, and the other in Norwalk, Ohio, to devote themselves to this work, and have seriously impaired their health by their zealous labors; and I can say with truth that the services of such men are invaluable, and that our army at the West have good reason to bless God for the Sanitary Commission and its agents.

But for its exertions Sherman's army must have perished, after their terrible privations last autumn, from scurvy. They have kept up a supply of fresh vegetable food for the men by dint of the most superhuman efforts; have ministered to the wounded, often under fire; and these heroic female agents, Mrs.

Porter, Mrs. Bickerdyke and others, have, amid the scorching rays of the summer sun, in the open air, prepared for the wounded such nourishment and delicacies as are usually obtained only in the hospitals; while clothing, pillows, blankets, and other articles, have been bestowed upon all who needed. Their trains of hospital cars, fitted up with cots suspended by rubber bands, and with a surgeon and special diet-kitchen, cordials, etc., have traversed the weary route from Louisville to Marietta daily, and brought the wounded on as gently as if they had been children in arms.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Their Hospital Directory, most admirably arranged, and posted every day from the returns of ninety hospitals, has furnished to distressed friends information of the whereabouts, condition, and often of the death of those whom they loved.

CHAPEL AND HOSPITAL VISITORS.

Nor have they been wanting in their attention to the spiritual needs of the soldier. Their hospital visitors, many of whom are clergymen, often officiate as chaplains, and administer religious instruction and counsel as they have opportunity. At Nashville, they have contributed \$2,000 toward the erection of a chapel for the convalescent soldiers, and at the great hospital at Jeffersonville, Ind., \$2,500, besides smaller sums at other points. The chaplains in both these are devout, Christian men, admirably adapted to their work. The Christian Commission are undoubtedly doing a good work also, though it did not come under my observation to the same extent as the labors of the Sanitary Commission; but after what I have seen, I can only bid a hearty God-speed to the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Israel Williams, a young man of great promise, and one of the most indefatigable and valued members of our Auxiliary Relief Corps, has died from the effects of over-work and exposure in the service of the Commission before Petersburg. We cannot do honor to his memory better than by one or two extracts from the address delivered at his funeral by Rev. Mr. Brigham, at Taunton, Mass.:

A few weeks since, the battles near Petersburg, and the new hospitals filled

with wounded, called for an immediate increase in the number employed in distributing stores for the Sanitary Commission. Our friend remembered his promise. In the hottest time of the summer, he left at once for the front of the army, and there, for four weeks, was indefatigable night and day, in the difficult duty he had undertaken. It is not surprising that he was prostrated so soon. The prolonged exposures to heat and dampness; the excessive muscular exertion, so different from his usual habit of life; the unwholesome air and the painful scenes he was compelled to witness, all told powerfully upon his nervous constitution and his sensitive spirit.

The account which he gave to me of what he saw and did in those four weeks was exciting as any description of battles that we now read. On one occasion he was very close to death by the sudden fire from the bank of the river upon the boat in which he was a passenger. The man with whom he was conversing fell dead upon his body, and he was sprinkled with blood. He was present at the great explosion of the barges at City Point, and was able to succor some of the sufferers on that ground of destruction and horror. He was in the trenches at the extreme front, close to the mine which was sprung, and so near that he could hear the voices of the enemy. In a great number of cases he brought to dying men the comfort for their last hours and their failing strength. Perhaps from the patience, the courage, the cheerfulness of these dying men, so painfully stricken, he learned how to bear more serenely the pain of his own departure.

From this service of patriotism and conscientious fidelity he came home to die. No soldier has fallen on the field of battle who is more truly a martyr than this good soldier in the cause of Christ. He has given up all that was most precious, his training, his attainments, his hope—just near to its fruition—his life, in a work of Christian patriotism and Christian humanity. Shall we say that a life closed so nobly is a lost life, even if it be ended before its chosen work is fairly begun? Could long service, even in the pastoral walk, more finely found its record?

What better blessing for the parting could there be than the blessing of those ready to perish, to whom these hands brought relief? Not for a moment did our friend regret that he had gone on such a

mission, even when he might forbode its fatal issues. "I am not sorry that I went," said he to me, "for I have learned a great deal that will be of service to me if I am permitted to enter upon my work." We may wish that he had not chosen such a hazardous duty, but he had no misgivings about it. He had done what was right, what mercy called him to do, what his conscience approved; had done what his Master had done before, and his mind was at rest.

* * * * *

"THE RECORD OF A DAY."

Such is the title of a little extemporaneous sheet, bearing date October 6, 1864, which, nestled in the folds of several of our religious weeklies, has found its way into hundreds of families. It tells an interesting story of a day's work done for the Christian Commission. Much good *was* done. One hundred and twenty-five dollars in money, and a box full of berries, and sugar, and shirts, and towels, and sheets, and quilts, and blankets, with tracts and hooks, was packed at midnight, and we trust is by this time safely lodged where it may reach the soldiers. We trust, too, that the simple story of the good uncles and aunts and squires and deacons, as they are represented to have opened their hearts and hands so freely, may have its influence upon others, who shall determine to go, and do likewise. We enjoy to witness any evidence of patriotic fervor and Christian zeal in the people, and when they are illustrated in acts of kindness to our soldiers, they are certainly now, in these perilous times, worthy of special commendation. But we have noticed one thing in this otherwise attractive narrative to which we hesitate to refer, but which demands, for the truth's sake, a passing notice. A certain deacon is made to say a certain thing, which has a certain meaning, that damages the whole sheet. Hear him—"I would not disparage the Sanitary Commission. It is doing a great and noble work. But the Christian Commission has taken a long stride in advance of it, inasmuch as the soul is of more im-

portance than the body." Again:—"The Commission (Christian) is carrying out the true idea of Christian charity. Its foundation is a precious stone that other organizations did not dig deep enough to find."

We do regard it as remarkable that our friends of the Christian Commission should insist in placing themselves in an opposing attitude to us, when there should be no other than a cordial fellowship and unity. If the Sanitary Commission's work is a "great and noble work" as the deacon and everybody else says it is, why attempt to create the impression that it is not a Christian work? From whence comes its greatness and nobility? Our Christianity teaches that nobility and greatness, emanate from the Gospel of Christ; that no good comes but from the Infinite Source of *all* good. If the precious stone that the deacon builds upon is better than the Gospel through which comes words of Christian kindness, and deeds of Christian love, why let us know it, and we may try to dig deeper; but while we are children of the same family, having the same Father, the same inheritance, and the same hope, we take it as our right and duty to care for our sick and wounded brethren, in the spirit of Him who went about doing good, without feeling that we are any the less Christians, because we do not wear the outside badge of the Christian Commission. We solicit the attention of the deacon and of the good lady who did the day's work, and of all others, to the injunction, "Judge not, lest ye be judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure you mete it shall be measured to you again."

WHAT THEY SAY IN ENGLAND.

Though the following extract from the *English Leader*, a paper published in London, is rather lengthy, we copy it as an English view of our work, which will interest our readers.

But a righteous war is now being waged on the American Continent, and surely if

war be still a sad necessity, it should in our civilized era be shorn as far as practicable of all its most debasing and poignant features; and when once a contest is fairly decided, it is not too much to urge that the labors of the benevolent, succoring the sick, wounded, exhausted, famishing and dying, may well be expended to soften, in some degree, the sufferings of their trying condition.

We hear little of the good that is being done in America; the slaughter is purposely dwelt on, but the labors of loving women and noble men on behalf of suffering humanity on both sides is scarcely alluded to, and yet the Sanitary Commission has now labored for three years in the United States on a wondrous scale, working on a neutral ground in which politics have no place, and as is stated, "we must be lost to every sense of benevolence if we do not admire the courage with which women have surmounted every difficulty, nor should we refuse to wish them God-speed in their mission of mercy and love." For it was by women this movement was initiated, and it is by them that it is being chiefly carried on. Clergymen too, with the Rev. Dr. Bellows at their head, and backed by the principal physicians, have not been behind hand in seconding this noble work. Their objects being first to find out what Government would do and *could* do, and then seeking to help it by working *with* it, doing what it could not. The operations of this association have extended over an area nearly as large as the continent of Europe; and in less than three years' time, the voluntary contributions to suffering humanity have reached the enormous sum of two million pounds sterling in value.

* * * * *

The terrible condition of affairs at the commencement of the war, was worse than our condition at the beginning of the Crimean Campaign. The disaffection, and the great strain put upon the existing order of things afforded no dependence for many months; and it was at a crisis of want and destitution that this volunteer association offered its services. But at last it finally got to work, and having elected the celebrated Frederick Law Olmstead as its Secretary, its labors became systematized, and isolated efforts in every part of the Union were rendered more effectual by working directly in harmony with the Central Association. Its departments, no longer recog-

nizing the existing division of States, had to take into consideration the best means of transporting its officers and goods to the theatre of war; and so the great rivers, railways, and roads marked its domains, and served as its main arteries. The inspection of camps and hospitals is one of its chief features, and many most valuable and statistical reports have been elicited on this subject, since each inspector has to give written answers to one hundred and eighty printed questions "on every possible detail affecting the health and effectiveness of the soldier, at every season of the year, and in widely distant latitudes."

The existing medical authorities were scarcely favorable to the Association, but on the appointment of the now celebrated Surgeon-General, Dr. W. A. Hammond, all their difficulties were smoothed over, and every facility given for it to do its work well. In the catalogue of its efficient labors may be mentioned the issuing of suitable medical works, especially for the camp, such as those by Dr. Mott on Pain and Anæsthetics, Hemorrhage from Wounds, &c., and many works on amputations, dysentery, &c., disseminated aforetime by Miss Nightingale, and which now makes her regarded by the American soldier as the beneficent genius of their hospitals and sick chambers.

A close inquiry into the diseases peculiar to the different sections of so vast a country was also instituted, and each department of the Potomac, Mississippi, Cumberland, Tennessee, &c., has to send in their information on these topics, and also the treatment usually adopted, and advice as to the best means of forwarding supplies. Hospital transports, consisting for the most part of large and well-ventilated steamers, were also sent, following the army from point to point, and always being at hand to take on board those whose necessities required their protection. Field cooking, too, so necessary to the too careless American as well as British soldier was taught and practiced, and the best was sought to be made of the supplies that might be at hand. Inspection of troops, hospitals, and camps, attention to the tents, bedding, cleanliness of the soldier were likewise insisted on, and the multifarious labors of the Association were further augmented by endeavors to provide for the amusement, instruction, and attention to the morale of the soldier, as well as to enhance his bodily comforts in every way.

A momentous question, too, has engaged

its attention, viz.: "What is to become of the tens of thousands of disabled soldiers after peace is restored?" so that Mr. Perkins, of New York, came over here to study the military pension and invalid system of Europe in order that its good features might be made available in America. The enormous quantity of articles and stores already given away by this Commission would, if duly enumerated, astound an English reader; and the disposition to give, either in money or goods, was so great when the writer hereof was in the cities of the Union, that he has often seen diamond rings and other valuable personal ornaments dropped into the Society's collection boxes when other things were wanting wherewith to contribute. Can we not aid, too, in this good secular work which helps both Federal and Confederate, asking only if they be suffering human beings? Indeed, the author of the pamphlet under notice says he often saw the rebels rather favored by the Commission than otherwise. Our hour of trouble may not be far off, we have watchful enemies on every side; our natural allies are the good Republicans of the United States; what we do now for Columbia will be returned to us tenfold, and we, who have so many brothers, sisters, and cousins over there, shall we not contribute of our great resources to so philanthropic a body as this Sanitary Commission has proved itself to be? Widely extended and innumerable as are the labors of this Society, the immense sum readily sent to its coffers must still be insufficient to enable it to carry out fully its humane efforts, which embrace far more than space will allow to be recorded here. For humanity's sake let not such an undertaking want for means. English nurses are employed in its service, let English funds be supplied to augment its good endeavors; and, as our author reminds us, can we, who have benefited by America's beneficence to Ireland and Lancashire, refuse to lend a helping hand to a work so nobly instituted, and so ably carried on?

We have said that this tribute to Florence Nightingale appears anonymously, but we have reason to know that its author is a gentleman well and favorably known to English literature. He is one that does good by stealth, and blushes to find it fame; but as he has long and zealously labored entirely at his own cost, and without other hope of reward than an approving conscience, to make Britons and Americans properly un-

derstand each other, we must venture to bring his honored name before our readers. Mr. Frederick Milnes Edge is the only English correspondent of the press who has really been on the field in the recent American battles. As representative of the *Morning Star*, he accompanied McClellan all through the Peninsular campaign, and was present altogether at not less than twenty-three battles. In 1863, he published his "Slavery Doomed," which contains observations that events have proved to be prophetic. His letters to Lord John Russell on American affairs have very much influenced the debates in our Houses of Parliament, and his recent publication on the Alabama and Kearsarge deserves to be in every one's hands, for its fairness and clear account of so celebrated an occurrence, who wishes to have a full and impartial acquaintance with the most celebrated sea encounter of modern times. It may, too, serve to stimulate other ladies, if they be told that the amiable wife of Mr. Edge is as great an enthusiast in the cause of humanity and of the Sanitary Commission as could well be wished, and that their benevolence of action has only been limited by the extent of their means. We may well learn a lesson from them, and imitate as far as we can, by bestowing aid and attention on the humanitarian efforts of the United States Sanitary Commission.

THE VALLEY.

From T. M. Blazier, at Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 27.

On Monday, the 19th of Sept., inst., we were in line of march across the river from our old camps, and by the middle of the forenoon we were again introduced to the horrid sights attendant on such an occasion. The battle was most vividly described by a correspondent, and my duties will only be mentioned.

In the morning, still the wounded came in in crowds, I was up at the Brigade Hospitals, and in sight of the rear of my corps, while the few wounded on skirmish line were coming in, (corps hospital not yet established,) but when shells came tumbling over the crest, I went to the side of the only road to the rear (viz: the pike) and there gave stimulant to wounded passing to the rear, both on stretcher and on foot.

Soon the hospital was established, and I had my wagon drawn near, and as wounded

came by oompanies, there was work enough for all, and I took hold at general assisting and issued only diet during the day. The corps had a very large quantity of dressing with them in the morning, but their supply was very low at night.

By the middle of the afternoon, I started for the battle-field with stimulant, as I learned we were in possession of that of the morning, thinking I could do more good there. I remained on the field till dark, using all the stimulant with me, and covering up the sufferers, most of whom were very cold, and many of them in the most intense suffering. Many expressions of thanks cannot be forgotten, that were uttered on that occasion amidst groans indescribable. The most that were left on the field at that time were the Confederate wounded, and a majority of them were wounded in the back—the ball passing directly through.

In the evening I returned to my wagon, and the train with which my wagon has permission to travel, and is warranted protection, was already in motion, and I therefore went with it to Winchester and encamped for the night. By daylight Tuesday morning, we were marching toward Strausburg, and arrived some time after noon, where the army took up position in front of Fisher's Mill.

Wednesday we lay quiet with the trains. There was quite an excitement at the front, but no heavy charging, and our loss was small. Thursday afternoon and evening decided our stay at that point, and by late evening we were in rapid motion up the Valley and took breakfast near Woodstock on Friday morning. In the afternoon we moved on to Edensburg and encamped for the night.

Saturday we moved on below New Market about two miles, fighting almost all the way, and on Sunday reached Harrisonburg, where the army, except the cavalry, are quiet, enjoying that which they most need. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, I found it necessary to issue, while marching, all my shoes. In every case the men were entirely without, and several of them so sore that it was impossible for them to get shoes on. Such cases I put into my wagon.

Sunday night I heard from the rear for the first time, when I received orders to return to Winchester with my wagon, which will be done with the first train and escort, as it would be the height of imprudence to

attempt a passage alone. I have already disposed of some of my remaining supplies, and will hand over to the hospital the remainder.

Notes from Berryville, Va., by J. V. Hammer.

Was busy making out my report when I was informed that a reconnoissance was going out. Went out with them; placed two bottles of stimulant in saddle-bags for use of wounded; found the enemy and drove them back on their main force. Our casualties were two killed and five wounded—issues comparatively small. Issued bottle of stimulant to sick and wounded, and some minor articles to individual relief.

* * * It rained all day; was very busy—more so than on any day since I have been in the corps. Furnished hospital with all necessary articles, also, a great deal of individual relief. To men with chills stimulants and some clothing were issued, they being destitute, and no possible way of obtaining any.

* * * Mr. Knowlton, agent from the Ferry, arrived the evening before with mail and invoice of goods at the Ferry, and to see what the field agents needed. Made out my requisition, and then piloted him to the agent's headquarters of the Sixth and Eighth Corps.

* * * Was very busy all day issuing to Surgeon's orders. Supplies arrived from the Ferry. Transferred the supplies to my wagon and team.

* * * Overhauled and repacked goods in wagon; then visited the new hospital of 1st Division 19th Army Corps, just established a day or so. Issued to them all they needed. Everything works well in this corps in regard to the Commission. All are loud in their praise of it, and all facilities that can be afforded me, by order of Major General Emery, Commanding Corps, and Dr. Brownell, Medical Director.

Notes from Winchester by F. A. Adams.

Sept. 26—Goods arrived from Harper's Ferry. A large lot of them. Helped issue some of them, and visited two hospitals.

Tuesday, Sept. 27.—This morning we held a meeting with seven of the Union ladies of this city, who are each to have a district assigned them, consisting of one or two hospitals, which they are to visit and draw the supplies they need from the Com-

mission. This afternoon I made some milk punch and carried it around, with some tobacco, to ward 4, hospital of the 19th corps. The boys were very grateful for it.

Wednesday, Sept. 28.—Early this morning the Medical Purveyor offered us an extra wagon, which we loaded and sent to the front. I visited three Confederate hospitals; they seemed as well supplied as our own. The surgeons were very gentlemanly, and glad to receive our aid.

Sept. 29.—* * * Visited the Taylor House hospital; they look much better than they did a few days ago. Went to see a soldier, wounded, in a private house. He had almost no clothing at all, and suffering severely from his wound. I sent him what he needed most.

* * * Saw some of the ladies who are visiting hospitals (according to instructions) and made out requisitions of articles they were in need of for the wounded. The rest of the day spent in duties about the store-room.

* * * Saw the surgeons in charge of the 6th and cavalry corps hospitals and ascertained the number of their sick and wounded, amounting to about 450 in all. Visited the cavalry corps hospital, in a church. It looked very well indeed, clean and well ventilated. They all had beds and a fair supply of clothing.

Notes from Harper's Ferry, by George Knowlton.

Friday morning, I was ordered to visit the hospital at Sandy Hook, Md., in company with Mr. Marks. The wards visited were those containing the amputated cases. We found the poor fellows suffering from all kinds of wounds, but bearing most nobly their suffering for the cause of liberty and justice. We found them also very much in need of stimulants, particularly wines. One case in particular I noticed in Ward No. 1, of a young man who had undergone a very severe operation, and, as I was told by the ward master, could not live. I asked him if I could bring him anything to eat or drink. He said he had no appetite to eat anything, but should like a bottle of sherry wine; he thought it would strengthen him and give him an appetite.

Cases like the above are to be met with every day, and were it not for the stimulants issued by the Sanitary Commission the suffering would be much greater. In the afternoon I visited the hospital in charge

of Dr. Ditts, on Bolivar Heights, but found the men receiving such good care and attention from their excellent surgeon and matron that there was very little we could do for them—about the only articles called for by the men were tobacco and some reading matter. Sunday morning I was ordered to take charge of a load of stores for the hospitals at Hagerstown, Md., which were left destitute by the rebels in the late raids in Maryland. I arrived in Hagerstown Sunday evening, and found them destitute indeed; the poor fellows were laying in common bunks filled with loose straw. The surgeon, Dr. Lees, was very thankful for the articles sent, and pleased at the promptness with which his requisition had been filled, and in a handsome letter sent to Col. Muleek, expressed his thanks to the Commission for their kindness to him and his men.

Friday morning, Mr. Hammer kindly offered to accompany me to the different corps I had to visit. We found Mr. Blazier, of the 6th corps, in the woods, about a quarter of a mile from the Summit Point Pike, between the 19th and 8th corps, and Mr. Evans, of the 8th, about five miles farther on the same road. The corps having made an advance the day before, made it rather difficult to find them. I found all the wagons very much in need of more stimulants and many other necessary articles, such as shirts, drawers, crackers, &c., and trust they may be re-supplied by the next train.

Notes from Crook's Division, Va., by D. W. Evans.

I find every facility for working, always welcomed among officers of every grade and department, and so it is comparatively easy to find out who the needy are, among the men. This corps especially, by its marches and counter-marches, is so much reduced and worn that it calls for a liberal supply of all kinds of stores, especially light diet and warm clothing for the hospitals, whose patients number an average of one hundred during this week. Among the comforts afforded them, has been blankets, which have been of inestimable service. Men are often to blame for not having their blankets with them. But when sick they should have them. I ask a liberal supply of them for this fall weather and cold nights. I have supplied these hospitals for several

days. Being further removed from the base of supplies than previous weeks, the supply trains are not as punctual as formerly, hence the reason for falling back exclusively on *our* supplies. In addition to furnishing personally and visiting the hospitals, I have supplied the surgeons of many regiments with the articles, as per requisitions inclosed, but generally I have distributed directly to the men in the several regiments, oftentimes carrying it to them in my saddle bags and straps.

I have distributed stimulants in greater quantities than I shall hope to do in future, for the sick men have been wet and chilly, and we have moved three times during the week. Everything that can be, is done for the comfort of the field hospitals by those in charge of them. There is a great demand for stimulating medicines, such as cayenne pepper, Jamaica ginger (essence), black-berry brandy and cherry cordial.

A. G. MUHLECH.

MARTINSBURG,
October 9, 1864. }

Since my last report, two trains, consisting each of six four-horse teams, heavily loaded with an assorted cargo of Sanitary goods have been forwarded from Martinsburg to Winchester. Bedding, clothing, and farinaceous food have been in pressing demand. We have supplied the different corps hospitals to a large extent; in fact, some of these hospitals in town have been provided with almost everything they needed in that line. Less complete has been our supply of delicacies, and these we mostly entrusted to the noble women who so generously volunteered to cook and prepare articles of extra diet. Soft crackers, chocolate, tea, jellies, milk, eggs, and sherry wine have been dealt out generously, and most properly and judiciously applied. Surgeons as well as the patients themselves and our hospital visitors, all coincide in this welcome report. Before I left for Washington, I had an interview with most of the surgeons in charge, and ascertained what articles were greatly wanted, viz: feeding-cups, bed pans, oil silk, adhesive plaster, etc.; also, a further supply of quilts, blankets and pillows. On my arrival at Martinsburg, I ordered to the front all those articles on hand; the same thing I did at Harper's Ferry. Dr. Harris, who doubtless postpones his departure from Winchester until I can reach that point, will give you more definite statements as to

the management of the hospitals and the condition of their inmates.

I hasten to add here, that the flying visit I was enabled to-day to pay to our several temporary hospitals, at Martinsburg, has impressed me with the conviction, that,—if not more pressingly needed at Winchester—Miss Harris' presence and labor in this town would result in infinite good. Large numbers of wounded pass frequently through town, and there is nobody to look after them, further than to show them into the cars. Some warm food, tea and coffee, prepared by a woman's hand, would be a great relief to the poor sufferers, who very often, hungry as they are, do not get anything before they reach their final destination. I shall duly report to you, without delay, the result of my consultation with the medical authorities, and the impressions of my own mind and judgment in regard to the further sphere of usefulness of Miss Harris, outside of Harper's Ferry. The hospitals temporarily established in this town contain at this moment several hundred sick and wounded. They are *not* yet in good condition, and demand the continued care and vigilance of our agency here. Larger or smaller detachments of sick and wounded are coming in daily, without previous information being given to the medical officers in charge, and some confusion is necessary. Quite a heavy draft for bedding and under-clothing has thus been made on our stores here; however, this is easily explained by the fact, that most of these articles go further East with those transient patients. Two or three excellent Union ladies, for whose character and devotion I may personally vouch, declare themselves willing to assist us in our mission, and ready to prepare food for those in want.

Finally, I would respectfully suggest to send henceforward only *such* stores and in *such* quantities as immediate need may justify. The number of wounded at Winchester has been largely reduced since I left the town. I hardly think more than twelve hundred remain there now, and a further decrease may be expected immediately on the opening of the Manassas road.

WANTED.—The cold weather approaches, and our men in the field will need mittens. Let the long evenings at home be occupied in knitting soldiers' mittens.

WANTED FOR MEN IN THE ARMY.

"Housewives" or "Comfort Bags."

Small bags, each containing one-half dozen assorted needles, one skein white cotton, one skein black linen thread, one half dozen horn or porcelain shirt buttons, (large size), one-half dozen pantaloons buttons, a small ball of yarn, (any color), a darning needle and a few pins. With this material men can repair clothing that would otherwise be thrown away.

SHIPMENTS IN SEPTEMBER.

From the 3d to the 29th of this month, beside many other articles in greater or less amount, there have been shipped to Sherman's army from the depot in Louisville, the following supplies:

704 pillow cases,	4,291 shirts,
2,666 pairs drawers,	1,879 cow fruit,
3,823 lbs. concentrated beef,	8,436 pounds crackers,
2,739 pounds dried fruit,	16,589 gallons pickles,
851 bushels potatoes,	16,937 bushels onions,
30,000 pounds ice,	5,172 bottles lime-juice,
815 pounds tobacco,	
3,471 towels and handkerchiefs,	
3,365 pounds of rags and baggages,	
1,727 bottles of wine and spirits,	

The Dunloith likewise was loaded to the utmost, here and at Cairo, about the 20th, with valuable stores for New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Memphis. Her cargo consisted of the following articles:

4,798 bushels onions,	45 dozen catsup,
5,516 gallons pickles,	15 dozen ginger wine,
350 bushels potatoes,	3 pounds sp-ages,
600 gallons kront,	20 pounds herbs,
12,100 pounds crackers,	60 fans,
4,203 pounds dried apples,	2,712 shirts,
1,740 lbs. concentrated beef,	1,114 pairs drawers,
22 doz. canned tomatoes,	192 sheets,
12 doz. Catawba wine,	880 pillow cases,
3 doz. raspberry vinegar,	274 handkerchiefs,
1 doz. whisky,	94 outfits and quilts,
576 cases blackberry,	396 towels,
104 pairs gloves,	18 dressing gowns,

FINANCIAL REPORT

Of Dr. J. S. Newberry, Secretary Western Department, U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky.
From September 1, 1861, to July 1, 1864.

From September 1, 1861, to January 1, 1862.

Expenses—

Stationery & office print'g,	\$14 25
Freight (not for supply department.)	15 00
Post expenses in office,	11 60
Office salaries,	945 00

985 31

Supply Department—

Transportat'n of supplies,	48 40
Miscellaneous,	469 55

517 95

Total, . . . \$1,503 26

For the Year 1862.

<i>Expenses—</i>	
Advertising, . . .	\$133 30
Stationery and office printing, . . .	191 83
Freight (not for supply department), . . .	27 53
Postage, . . .	18 48
Telegrams, . . .	61 08
Rent, . . .	345 00
Petty expenses in office, . . .	237 83
Office salaries, . . .	2,756 35
	<u>3,771 40</u>
<i>General Inspection—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$3,816 97
Expenses, . . .	2,059 01
	<u>5,875 98</u>
<i>Directory—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$597 63
Expenses, . . .	43 60
	<u>640 63</u>
<i>Relief Department—</i>	
Expenses of Relief Corps \$	45 00
Home at Louisville, . . .	1,132 75
Hospital Cars, . . .	158 68
Hospital Boats, . . .	1,864 12
	<u>3,200 55</u>
<i>Supply Department—</i>	
Storehouse wages and expenses, . . .	\$ 40 00
Purchase of supplies, . . .	4,519 29
Distribution of supplies, . . .	2,874 47
Transportation of supplies, . . .	638 54
Canvassing, . . .	198 50
	<u>8,270 80</u>
Miscellaneous, . . .	1,669 23
	<u>\$23,418 59</u>

For the Year 1863.

<i>Expenses—</i>	
Advertising, . . .	\$288 23
Stationery and office printing, . . .	2,007 91
Freight (not for supply department), . . .	115 58
Postage, . . .	403 12
Telegrams, . . .	42 67
Rent, . . .	1,359 66
Petty expenses in office, . . .	1,802 40
Office salaries, . . .	8,147 61
	<u>14,187 18</u>
<i>Publication—</i>	
Sanitary Reporter, . . .	\$2,622 14
Documents, Monographs, &c., . . .	731 80
	<u>3,353 94</u>
<i>General Inspection—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$9,118 99
Expenses, . . .	3,987 02
	<u>13,104 01</u>
<i>Directory—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$8,017 74
Expenses, . . .	1,519 66
	<u>9,537 40</u>
Carried forward, . . .	\$40,162 53

Brought forward, . . .	\$40,182 53
<i>Relief Department—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$4,609 03
Expenses, . . .	2,270 91
Home at Cairo, . . .	1,806 87
" Memphis, . . .	1,098 80
" Nashville, . . .	1,068 40
" Louisville, . . .	1,147 10
Hospital Cars, . . .	2,171 01
Hospital Boats, . . .	10,000 00
	<u>23,972 12</u>
<i>Supply Department—</i>	
Storehouse wages and expenses, . . .	\$2,810 19
Purchase of supplies, . . .	34,430 68
Distribution " . . .	17,194 49
Transportation " . . .	28,933 54
Canvassing, . . .	5,539 04
	<u>88,907 99</u>
Miscellaneous, . . .	2,281 28
	<u>\$155,323 84</u>
Total, . . .	<u>\$155,323 84</u>

From January 1 to July 1, 1864.

<i>Expenses—</i>	
Stationery and office printing, . . .	\$486 00
Postage, . . .	208 42
Rent, . . .	515 00
Petty expenses in office, . . .	1,861 08
Office salaries, . . .	5,453 33
	<u>8,523 83</u>
<i>General Inspection—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$4,190 32
Expenses, . . .	898 84
	<u>5,089 18</u>
<i>Directory—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$4,456 16
Expenses, . . .	1,041 34
	<u>5,497 50</u>
<i>Publication—</i>	
Sanitary Reporter, . . .	1,929 94
<i>Relief Department—</i>	
Compensation, . . .	\$8,815 47
Expenses, . . .	3,971 31
Home at Cairo, . . .	4,860 89
" Memphis, . . .	1,177 11
" Nashville, . . .	1,452 88
" Louisville, . . .	35 00
" Camp Nelson, . . .	2,065 95
" Knoxville, . . .	139 50
" Stevenson, . . .	629 60
" Chattanooga, . . .	279 82
Hospital Cars, . . .	984 71
Hospital Boats, . . .	1,063 23
	<u>25,275 46</u>
<i>Supply Department—</i>	
Storehouse expenses, . . .	\$1,173 64
Local expenses, . . .	60 00
Purchase of supplies, . . .	54,642 59
Distribution " . . .	27,941 72
Transportation " . . .	6,648 28
Canvassing, . . .	3,231 05
	<u>93,697 28</u>
Miscellaneous, . . .	802 52
	<u>\$140,819 69</u>
Total, . . .	<u>\$140,819 69</u>

Summary.

Expenses—

Advertising, . . .	\$421 53	
Stationery and office printing, . . .	2,699 99	
Freight (not for supply department), . . .	158 11	
Postage, . . .	630 02	
Rent, . . .	2,219 66	
Office expenses, . . .	3,912 31	
Telegrams, . . .	103 75	
Office salaries, . . .	17,302 35	
		27,447 72

Publications—

Sanitary Reporter, . . .	\$4,552 08	
Documents, Mono-graphs, &c., . . .	731 80	
		5,283 88

General Inspection—

Compensation, . . .	\$17,124 28	
Expenses, . . .	6,944 87	
		24,069 15

Directory—

Compensation, . . .	\$13,071 53	
Expenses, . . .	2,604 00	
		15,675 53

Relief Department—

Compensation, . . .	\$13,224 50	
Expenses, . . .	6,287 22	
Homeat'aire, . . .	6,467 76	
" Memphis, . . .	2,275 91	
" Nashville, . . .	2,521 28	
" Louisville, . . .	2,314 85	
" Camp Nelson, . . .	2,065 95	
" Knoxville, . . .	139 50	
" Stevenson, . . .	629 60	
" Chattanooga, . . .	279 82	
Hospital Cars, . . .	3,314 40	
Hospital Boats, . . .	12,297 34	
		52,448 13

Supply Department—

Storehouse wages, &c, \$3,823 83		
Local expenses, . . .	260 00	
Purchase of supplies, . . .	93,592 56	
Distribution " . . .	48,010 68	
Transportation " . . .	36,268 76	
Canvassing, " . . .	8,968 59	
		190,924 42
Miscellaneous, . . .		5,216 59
Total, . . .		\$321,065 42

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS.

The United States Sanitary Commission steamer Elizabeth left Philadelphia on Saturday morning for City Point, with a full cargo of clothing and sanitary stores for the use of our brave soldiers in the army operating before Richmond, at a cost of \$44,383 74.

The public will see that their generous contributions to our late "Great Fair" are being put to a good use.

The following named articles comprise the Elizabeth's cargo.

5,000 wool shirts.
744 pairs wool drawers.
433 dozen wool socks.
209 quilts.
799 bed sacks.
210 sheets.
500 towels.
528 pairs leather slippers.
14,565 pounds crackers.
10,168 pounds tobacco.
350 barrels onions.
75 barrels sweet potatoes.
50 barrels white potatoes.
50 barrels beets.
5,000 heads cabbage.
50 boxes peaches.
20 barrels family flour.
415 pounds tea.
60 dozen Sherry wine.
40 dozen ale.
50 dozen Monongahela whisky.
100 dozen old cherry brandy.
2,376 pounds crushed sugar.
821 pounds butter.
883 pounds dried beef.
30 kits mackerel.
2,000 pounds codfish.
4,800 pounds condensed milk.
6,360 pounds canned roast beef.
4,530 pounds beef and vegetable soup.
2,400 pounds corn starch.
2,400 pounds farina.
50 boxes lemons.
25 dozen lemon syrup.
100 dozen canned peaches.
258 dozen canned tomatoes.
5 dozen tomato catsup.
60 dozen apple butter.
20 kegs tripe.
26 dozen Julienne soup.
122 dozen flavoring extract.
10 gross essence ginger.
40 dozen pickled onions.
50 dozen salt pickles.
1 case salt.
10 dozen egg nogg.
749 pounds dried peaches.
3,425 pounds dried apples.
43 gallons coal oil.
600 pounds corned beef.
3 dozen bay rum.
331 arm slings.
1 box reading matter.
839 books.
10,000 envelopes.
27 gross pens.
10 gross lead pencils.
10 gross inkstands.
2,000 tin cups.
10 gross pie plates.
4 dozen box graters.
16 gross iron table spoons.
18 pounds patent thread.
20 gross matches.
140 dozen combs.
10 dozen pails.
10 dozen spirits camphor.
2,000 paper bags.

Phœadæ, Evening Bulletin, Sept. 21, 1864.

Issues from Philadelphia Agency U. S. Sanitary Commission for month of September, 1864.

Sept. 1.—To Louisville.

263 cases, 12 boxes, each, lime juice, \$1,483 25.

Sept. 6.—To City Point, Va.

130 barrels onions.

28 barrels beets.

47 barrels sweet potatoes.

20 boxes peaches.

35 tons coal.

150 newspapers.

1,881 65

Sept. 30.—To Baltimore, Md.

257 bed-sacks.

224 wrappers.

89 wool shirts.

515 wool drawers.

276 cotton flannel shirts.

684 pads.

639 pillows.

236 dozen bandages.

176 pairs slippers.

480 towels.

1,119 pairs wool socks.

1 pair mittens.

78 slings.

380 finger stalls.

24 eye shades.

2,630 combs (fine and coarse).

9 pieces mosquito netting.

6 pieces oil silk.

34 cans fruit.

21 cans apple butter.

162 pounds farina.

38 bottles raspberry vinegar.

38 pounds corn starch.

153 bottles blackberry brandy.

408 bottles Sherry wine.

102 fans.

1 barrel dried fruit.

100 games.

180 gallons vinegar.

106 pounds tobacco.

48 bottles Cayenne pepper.

25 pounds Cayenne pepper.

15 bottles blackberry cordial.

6,262 86

500 ounces bromine.

330 00

Cargo Steamer Elizabeth,

9,957 76

44,383 74

\$54,341 50

PROTECTIVE War-Claim Association

OF THE
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Apply in person or by letter, to

HENRY GREENFIELD, Secretary,

35 CHAMBERS STREET, New York.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.

2d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.

3d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.

4th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.

A. D. Baché, LL.D., Washington, D. C.

F. L. Olmsted, California.

George T. Strong, Esq., New York.

Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.

W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.

A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.

R. C. Wood, Assistant Surgeon-Gen'l U. S. A.

Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.

S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.

C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.

J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.

Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.

Hon. R. W. Barnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.

Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.

Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penna.

Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.

J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.

Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penna.

C. J. Stillé, Philadelphia, Penna.

Ezra B. McCagg, Chicago, Ill.

OFFICERS.

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A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President.
George T. Strong, Treasurer.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Associate Secretary.
J. H. Douglas, M.D., Associate Secretary.
F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Henry W. Bellows, D.D.
George T. Strong.
William H. Van Buren, M.D.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address—Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

As Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 48 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, N. Y.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 Fourth Street, Pittsburgh, Penna.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, O.

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.

Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.

Lodge No. 4, H Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.

Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.

Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.

Soldiers' Lodge, 76 Kingston Street, Boston.

Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, O.—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malone, Superintendent. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Craae, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Columbus, O.—Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, O.—Joseph Jerome, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C. W. Christy, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, New Orleans, La.—C. F. Howes, Superintendent.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Washington, D. C.

HOSPITAL CARE.

Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M.D., Surgeon in charge.

Between New York and Boston, via Springfield. Between Louisville and Chattanooga—Dr. J. P. Barbaum, Surgeon in charge.

SANITARY STRAINE.

James River—Elizabeth.

DURYEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS



(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."

MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

At the FAIR of the NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, at Utica, N.Y., September, 1863, received both DIPLOMA and MEDAL.

MAIZENA,

At the Pennsylvania State Fair at Norristown,

OCTOBER 3, 1863, TOOK GOLD MEDAL.

"MAIZENA" has also taken the first premium at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE, New York City; NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR at Trenton, and at other places—in every instance where it has been exhibited.

"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

MAIZENA,

For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

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Sir:—The Board of Medical Officers assembled in the City of Philadelphia, for the purpose of examining the different models submitted to them for an Artificial Arm, having reported
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD, WHEN A SOLDIER MAY DESIRE TO PURCHASE "THE MORE ELEGANT AND EXPENSIVE ARM OF PALMER," FIFTY DOLLARS WILL BE ALLOWED TOWARDS PAYMENT FOR THE SAME.
By order of the Acting Surgeon-General.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Dec. 12, 1863.

Sir:—In answer to your letter of the 1st inst., I am directed to inform you, that the Report and recommendation of the Medical Board recently assembled in New York, to examine samples and models of Artificial Limbs, is not designed to supersede the recommendation of the former Board, so FAR AS REGARDS THE LIMBS MANUFACTURED BY YOU.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, by order of the Surgeon-General.

SCURRO-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Sept. 20, 1864.

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W. C. SPENCER, Assistant Surgeon U.S.A.

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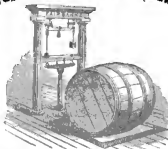
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Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864.....	\$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums.....	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.....	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies....	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not.....	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums.....	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders.....	26 per cent.

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